



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

THE SEASON OF LENT

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

In the early church, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of baptism at the Easter Vigil. In many communities of faith it remains a time to equip and nurture candidates for baptism and confirmation and to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship.

- From the PC(USA) office of theology and worship

A TIME TO TURN

The Lenten journey from the ashes of death to resurrected life begins on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, which signifies a time to turn around, to change directions, to repent. This first day of Lent reminds us that unless we are willing to die to our old selves, we cannot be raised to new life with Christ. The first step of this journey calls us to acknowledge and confront our mortality, individually and corporately. In many traditions, this is symbolized through the imposition of ashes — placing a cross on one's forehead. During the imposition of ashes the words: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19) are repeated again and again. We are to remember that we are but temporary creatures, always on the edge of death. On Ash Wednesday, we begin our Lenten trek through the desert toward Easter. Ashes on the forehead is a sign of our humanity and a reminder of our mortality. Lent is not a matter of being good, and wearing ashes is not to show off one's faith.

The ashes are a reminder to us and our communities of our finite creatureliness. The ashes we wear on our Lenten journey symbolize the dust and broken debris of our lives as well as the reality that eventually each of us will die. Trusting in the "accomplished fact" of Christ's resurrection, however, we listen for the Word of God in the time-honored stories of the church's Lenten journey. We follow Jesus into the wilderness, resist temptation, fast, and proceed "on the way" to Jerusalem and the cross. Our Lenten journey is one of metanoia ("turning around"), of changing directions from self-serving toward the self-giving way of the cross.

-*Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003, 109-110)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023

PRELUDE

Rosary Sonata No. 1, Variatio e Finale

H. Biber
(1644-1704)

Paula Pasqua, violin

THE GREETING

At the sound of the bells, please prepare your heart and mind for worship.

INTROIT

Miserere Mei, Deus

H. Purcell
(1659-1695)

Miserere mei, O Jesu.

Translation:

Have mercy on me, Jesus.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare your praise.

For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering,
you would not be pleased.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Gracious God, you breathed your life into the dust of the earth, creating us in your image to love and serve others. Animate our worship with that same breath, that as we confront the darkness of the world, we may fix our eyes on your eternal promise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN 165

The Glory of These Forty Days

Erhalt Uns, Herr

LITANY OF CONFESSION

Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God. We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

The Call to Worship is from Psalm 51.

Hymn 165 Note:

Appropriate for singing at any time during Lent, this stately text connects Jesus' wilderness fast with the solitary testing of other prophetic souls: Moses, Elijah, Daniel, and John the Baptist. This sturdy 16th-century chorale melody formed the basis of Bach's Cantata 126.

The Litany of Confession is from the PC(USA) Book of Common Worship

*Where you see this notation, please rise in body or in spirit.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

we confess to you, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,

we confess to you, O God.

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

we confess to you, O God.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

we confess to you, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

we confess to you, O God.

Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

accept our repentance, O God.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

accept our repentance, O God.

For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

accept our repentance, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Amen.

SILENT MEDITATION

KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy

Castle Road

A. Burnette (b. 1982)

Cantor:
Lord, have mer - cy;

Congregation:
Lord, have mer - cy;

Cantor:
*Christ, have mer - cy;

Congregation:
*Christ, have mer - cy;

Cantor:
Lord, have mer - cy;

Congregation:
Lord, have mer - cy;

Kyrie Note:

Our Lenten Kyrie was composed for and is dedicated to Mrs. Jean Lowrey.

Anthem:

*There is a fountain filled
with blood
Drawn from Immanuel's
veins;
And sinners, plunged
beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains;
Lose all their guilty stains;
Lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners, plunged
beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

What Wondrous Love Is This

Wondrous Love

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!**

**What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

ANTHEM

There Is A Fount

A. Burnette
(b. 1982)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

NRSVUE

¹ “Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give

*Dear dying Lamb, Thy
precious blood
Shall never lose its pow'r;
Till all the ransomed
Church of God
Be saved, to sin no more:
Be saved, to sin no more,
Be saved, to sin no more;
Till all the ransomed
Church of God
Be saved to sin no more.*

*E'er since by faith I saw the
stream
Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my
theme,
And shall be till I die:
And shall be till I die,
And shall be till I die;
Redeeming love has been my
theme,
And shall be till I die.*

alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵ “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶ “And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

*HYMN 166

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

St. Flavian

COMMUNION AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son.

You are the source of all life and goodness; through your eternal Word you have created all things from the beginning and formed us in your own image; male and female you created us.

When we sinned and turned away you called us back to yourself and gave your Son to share our human nature. By His death on the cross, he made the one perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world and freed us from the bondage of sin. You raised him to life triumphant over death; you exalted him in glory. In him

Hymn 166 Note:

Like many of this author's hymns, this text was written primarily for children but works equally well in reminding adults how Lent connects us with Christ's temptation in the wilderness and prepares us for Easter. The 16th-century English psalm tune provides sturdy support.

“The Great Thanksgiving” adapted from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*, Harper One, 1997.

Today's music is reprinted with permission from OneLicense.net. A-722902.

you have made us a holy people by sending upon us your holy and lifegiving Spirit.

Therefore with the faithful who rest in him, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Schubert

(All sing together)

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord. God of power and might.
Holy, holy, holy, Lord. God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory;
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory;
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

Recalling your great goodness to us, loving God, in Jesus Christ: in his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life and this cup of salvation.

Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which we offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive may be to us the body and blood of Christ, and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power, may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise. Blessing, honor, and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and forever. Amen.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

We invite you to come forward for the imposition of ashes and to receive communion via the nearest accessible main aisle and return to your seat the way you came. Communion is served by intinction. Take a piece of bread held by one elder, dip it in the cup held by another, and then, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." Gluten-free bread is available by request on the left aisle.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Meditation on *Wondrous Love*

Wondrous Love

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN 792

There is a Balm in Gilead

Balm in Gilead

BENEDICTION

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn 792 Note:

This lauda spirituale, a kind of vernacular Italian sacred song from the late Middle Ages and Renaissance, was translated into English in the 19th century but received little notice until this tune (named for the composer's birthplace) was created for The English Hymnal.



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Announcements

- The story of Jesus’s death is not something we just read: we think about it, and we experience it. During the **Sundays of Lent**, using *Witness at the Cross*, by author Amy-Jill Levine, we will discover the unique memories and insights given by those who were there, at the cross with Jesus. Come join the discussion at 9:15 a.m. in Hollis Hall.
- Beginning today and continuing throughout Lent, the Christian Education Team invites members of our congregation to write a brief, **one page reflection** on some aspect of Lent. What does it mean to you personally? It could be a practice you engage in, a prayer, a passage of scripture, a meaningful hymn, or spiritual reflection (your own or perhaps a favorite author’s.) It could also be a discipline you and your family observe yearly or a new discipline you decide to take on this year. Your reflections will be posted daily to our Facebook FPC Dalton Connect page - Lenten Reflections 2023. Please send your submissions to Jean Strain at jstrain@firstpresdalton.org.
- This year we invite you to give to **“One Great Hour of Sharing”**—a denomination-wide mission effort that raises money for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, hunger programs, and cooperative development work with communities experiencing poverty around the world. Make a gift through the website or leave a check with “One Great Hour of Sharing” in the memo line. We will receive collections for this special offering through Easter.
- On Sunday, February 26 at 2:00 p.m., The DEO Clinic, in partnership with FPC, is hosting a concert featuring **The Atlanta Mandolin Orchestra**. They are an ensemble of mandolins, mandolas, mandocellos, guitars, and bass. The Orchestra’s broad repertoire includes pieces by Bach, Mozart, Joplin, Ellington, the Beatles, and more. Volunteers are needed for this event. Please contact the church office if you are interested in volunteering. Go to <http://woodsongsdalton.com> for ticket information.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flowers	Joy Makers	Faith Explorers
2/22	_____	Jodi Johnson Kathryn Sellers	Kathryn Sellers	_____	_____
2/26	Laura Goins	Charles Allgood, Nathalie Sanders, Peggy Rollins and Valerie George	The Flower Team	Jeff & Leanna Granillo	Jodi Johnson Rachel Smalley

MONTHLY

Communion (February 22 - Ash Wednesday)		Congregational Care	
Prep	Kathryn Sellers	February	Joanne Lewis
Servers	Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie, Hilliard Jolly, Jean Lowrey, Henry & Julie Tharpe	March	Becky Jolly

PRAYERS

For Healing and Comfort for our Members:

Fran Lewis, at home receiving hospice care;
Nancy Rhine, in assisted living located near her daughter;
Bill and Kaye Clark & family, as they mourn the death of Bill's brother, Roddy Joseph Haynes Clark;
Mary Dover, in rehabilitation at Regency Park;
Greg George, kidney disease and recent surgery;
Noel and *Coy Temples*, as Coy adjusts to his new setting;
Stan Cranford, multiple health challenges including spinal stenosis;
Kristen Weiss, complications of Crohn's disease.

For Healing and Comfort for Family and Friends of our Members:

Roger and Peggy Rollins
The family of Shirley Owens, friend, as they mourn her death;

Friends of First Presbyterian, Dalton

The family of Tom Phillips, as they mourn his death;
Bill Johnson, diagnosed with cancer; and for his wife, *Mae Johnson*, and his family as they care for him;
Arden Brown, son of Amanda and Chris Brown, has been accepted into a clinical trial for a drug which hopefully will prove to be a cure for Duchennes Muscular Dystrophy;
Wilson Kennedy, Cherokee Presbytery General Presbyter;
Families affected by COVID-19;
Caregivers and aging parents.

Praises and Continuing Prayers!

Becky Hansberry, daughter of Kaye Clark, is moving to Atlanta in June and will continue her cancer treatment at Emory;
Cecilia Passmore, at home;
Comer Turley, brother-in-law of Fran Lewis, received a good report from oncologist;