



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
Ann Arbor | Michigan

# **ASH WEDNESDAY**

## **Worship and Communion**



**March 2, 2022**  
**5:30 p.m.**

# Coming into God's Presence

## OPENING VOLUNTARY

### WELCOME

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Life is a journey, an everyday workshop for learning love,  
a continual opportunity to learn the way of peace.

**All: We travel together, seeking to do justice, to act mercifully, to walk humbly with God.**

One: We cherish this community, which offers us a context for our personal transformation and support for our political and social involvement in the transformation of the world.

**All: We are brought together in the Spirit of God, to listen to each other's stories, to share each other's pain, to celebrate each other's joys, to acknowledge our complicity in the state of the world, to grow in grace, to receive forgiveness and to offer it to one another, to practice reconciliation and to demonstrate the authentic community of God.**

One: Let us worship together. Let us sing; let our hearts dance; let our spirits weep;  
let our hearts laugh, let our minds clear; let our bodies be renewed; let our lives flow;  
let the journey continue.

\* HYMN 435

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

IN BABILONE

# Coming Clean with God

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Forgiving God, You offered us connection, and we either chose to journey alone or we silently wondered, “why would you want me along?”

**All: Forgive us for being so foolish.**

One: You offered us bread in the wilderness, and some of us said, “that’s not good enough!” while others said, “that’s too good for me!”

**All: Forgive us for failing to appreciate the goodness within us and before us.**

One: You sought to empower us with your Spirit but we said, “We are strong enough!”

**All: Forgive us for not understanding the meaning of strength. Forgive us, God. Pick us up and help us try again.**

*(Continue to offer prayers in silence.)*

Lord have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

Lord have mercy. **Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

## CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE AND IMPOSITION OF DIRT

*(Come forward, as you are able and willing, to make your mark on the Table, and receive the imposition of dirt.)*

Confessional Music

Change My Heart, Oh God

Change my heart, O God; — make it ev-er true. — Change my heart, O God; —

*Fine*

may I be like you. — You are the Pot - ter; I am the clay. —

to Refrain

Mold me and make — me; this is what I pray. —

The musical score is written in 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The first system contains the first line of lyrics. The second system contains the second line of lyrics and is marked 'Fine'. The third system contains the third line of lyrics and is marked 'to Refrain'. There are triplets in the bass line of the second and third systems.

PRAYER

Holy God, you made us from the rich topsoil. Let this dirt remind us of Jesus and tell us again how loved we are, now and forever. Oh God, thank you for loving us so much. Amen.

# Coming to the Word of God

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

Wilderness Reflection

Beca Torres-Davenport

Welcome Reflection

Rev. Mark Mares

## Coming to God's Table

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

**All:** We come from the east and west.  
We come from the north and south.  
To feast at our Lord's table.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

**All:** And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All:** We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, \_\_\_\_\_  
Bless - ed is \_\_\_\_\_ the one who comes in the name of the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ Ho -



heaven and earth \_\_\_\_\_ are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in \_\_\_\_\_ the high - est.  
san - na in \_\_\_\_\_ the high - est. \_\_\_\_\_ Ho - san - na in \_\_\_\_\_ the high - est.

**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.**

### **Communion**

*All are welcome at this Table. All communion cups contain only non-alcoholic grape juice. Communion will be served at two stations in front of the communion table. We invite you to come forward to one of the stations, receive a piece of bread and a cup, and return to your seat to consume when you are ready. Hold onto your cup to dispose at the end of service.*

### **Communion Music**

### **Prayer after Communion**

## **Taking God's Love Out the Doors**

\* HYMN 771

*What Is the World Like?*

NEW WORLD

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Precious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.**

**Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light;  
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

*This is Stanza 1 of Hymn 834, *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* (PRECIOUS LORD).*

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY**



**The Call to Worship** is from *Sacraments and Seasons, Peacemaking through Worship*.

**The Confession** is from *Association of Partners in Christian Education Worship* (2.10.22).

**Worship leadership** is provided by Rev. Mark Mares and Beca Torres-Davenport.  
**Musical leadership** is provided by Joshua Marzan, piano.

**Continuing a long-standing tradition at First Pres, children are assisting in the serving of communion.** All adults serving communion are ordained elders or deacons. We rejoice that our children are part of the family of God. Serving today are Daniel Forger, Cecilia Musser, and Priscilla Musser.

**Ushers** are Len Rezmierski (captain), Beth Sanderford, Keith Molin, Holly Major, Aidan Majorprice, and Chloe Majorprice.

**Baskets are placed at each door for your offering.** Gifts received tonight will be directed to the Student Advocacy Center of Michigan.

**Ecumenical Taizé Worship** is in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. This service will include scripture, silent reflection, imposition of ashes, Holy Communion, and music from the ecumenical community of Taizé, France. All are welcome.

## **The Days of Holy Week:**

**Palm/Passion Sunday**, celebrated this year on April 10, is the specific day when Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is remembered. Many churches reenact Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on this Sunday during the season of Lent. This practice can be traced back to the fourth century in the city of Jerusalem. During this procession, participants carry palms and other branches into the church. The church becomes a symbol of the city of Jerusalem. After the procession with palms, the worship service that follows usually becomes more somber as Holy Week begins.

**Maundy Thursday**, this year on April 14, is the Thursday that occurs during Holy Week. The emphasis for this Thursday is on Jesus' new commandment of love: "Love one another even as I have loved you." The word "maundy" comes from the English form of the Latin *mandatum*, which means commandment. Maundy Thursday is a combination of three things: a time to commemorate the Last Supper, a time when penitents are reconciled to the family of believers, and a time to prepare for Baptism. It is also a time when the discipline of Lent is concluded with forgiveness. Jesus' new commandment to his disciples, "Love one another even as I have loved you," contrasts sharply with Judas' betrayal at the completion of the Last Supper. Jesus' love for all people is demonstrated by his service to others, as well as in his gift of himself for our salvation. The washing of the disciples' feet as part of the Last Supper was a concrete example of the loving service Jesus shared with his followers. Foot washing is often a part of Maundy Thursday celebrations today, as a response to the new commandment and as a symbol of Christian charity and service.

**Good Friday** this year is April 15. The Friday during Holy Week became widely kept as a commemoration of the cross by the end of the fourth century. On Good Friday, we emphasize a time of reflection, intercession, and adoration of Christ as the sacrificial lamb. Many churches commemorate Good Friday with a Tenebrae service commemorating the sufferings and death of Christ. This service is conducted in a darkened church and is often thought of as a service of shadows.

**Easter Sunday**, celebrated this year on April 17, is the greatest Sunday of the church year, for the resurrection is the basis of our faith. As such, it is welcomed with song and procession and joy by millions of people throughout the world. The days of fasting and reflection in Lent are over. The celebration is just starting! Easter is the oldest festival of the church year. Unlike Christmas, Easter does not fall on the same day each year. Easter is always celebrated on a Sunday, but that Sunday can fall anywhere between March 22 and April 25. Easter is a most joyful season. The color for Easter is white and the symbols associated with the season are beautiful and bright. Everything about the celebration points to the glorious resurrection of Jesus.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD COMMUNITY DURING LENT

### Lenten Email Devotions

Begin each day with a Lenten email devotion written by church members and staff. Sign up with Rev. Rogers ([mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mr Rogers@firstpresbyterian.org)).

### Easter Flowers

Flowers are \$18 each and may be ordered in memory of a deceased loved one or in honor or recognition of someone still living. All orders must be placed by Palm Sunday, April 10. Use this link to order flowers: <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/easter-lilies/>.

### Home Worship Gatherings

Simple worship gatherings will be held in various homes on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. throughout the season of Lent. Gatherings are limited to a maximum of 15 people. Please use this link to sign up for a home worship gathering: <https://bit.ly/3uD4fr6>.

### Wilderness | Walking

Join your church family for a weekly walk in Lent. All are welcome! Information on dates, times, locations, and sign up is available online using this link: [bit.ly/3oAMTY9](https://bit.ly/3oAMTY9).

### AGO Organ Series

Join us throughout Lent for a free concert series weekly, March 11 through April 8, at 12:00 p.m., in our Sanctuary. On March 25, David Hufford, FPC Organist, and Lucy Trumbull Baum, Artist, will create a rich organ concert and visual art in a concert titled A Feast for the Eyes and Ears. All are welcome to attend these free, hour-long concerts!

### En la Mesa de Dios // At God's Table: A Stations of the Cross Experience

**April 3–17 | Sundays, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Mondays – Thursdays, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.**

Experience the Holy Week narrative by taking in the art of *En la mesa de Dios / At God's Table*, illustrated by Joel Schoon-Tanis. Both an audio track to help in the walk-through and a pamphlet will be available to guide you as you experience multi-sensory stations of the cross in this unique format. All ages are welcome! *En la Mesa de Dios* is located in the Children's Wing on the third level.

# Lenten Activity Guide

**What is Lent?** Lent is the 40-day period of repentance and renewal preceding Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter's dawn. The word "Lent" is derived from the Old English word "lencten," which means "lengthen." It refers to the lengthening of the daylight hours that occurs as spring approaches. Lent is a special time for meditation and prayer, giving us time to recall the Easter story and absorb its meaning – that Christ lived and died to redeem the world from sin.

## Ways to Prepare Our Hearts for Easter During Lent:

**Help Others.** Participate in community or church projects that help others; look for ways to help your neighbors, such as running errands for someone ill or housebound; give gently used toys and clothing to the needy; donate time and/or money to help alleviate hunger, poverty and suffering locally and around the world.

**Make Special Time for Prayer and Reflection.** Make prayer a daily habit. Set aside part of your day for quiet time when interruptions are at a minimum. Pray the psalms, use a devotional guide to choose daily prayers, or sign up to receive daily devotionals written by church members and staff. Think about things in your life that you need to change, and pray for help in changing them. Accept difficulties patiently, and through prayer, try to understand and accept them.

## Attend Lenten and Easter Worship Services

Each Sunday of Lent at 8:00 a.m., in Monteith Hall and at 9:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary

Palm Sunday, April 10, at 8:00 a.m., in Monteith Hall and at 9:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 17, at 7:00 a.m., on the Front Lawn, and at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m., in the Sanctuary.

## Lenten Symbols:



Ashes are an ancient symbol of sorrow and repentance. Traditionally, the Ash Wednesday ashes are from the burning of the previous year's palms.



The butterfly is a symbol of the resurrection.



The crown of thorns is a symbol of the crucifixion.



Grapes and wheat symbolize the wine and bread shared during the Last Supper.



The palm branches remind us of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.



A bag of coins is symbolic of the 30 pieces of silver for which Judas betrayed Jesus.

**40**

Forty stands for the 40 days of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. It is a number used repeatedly in the Bible, and signifies "a period of transformation."



The rooster reminds us of Peter's three denials of Jesus.



Jesus used the basin and towel when he washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper.



Pretzels are a Lenten bread that came from Europe. Early settlers called them "pilgrims' tokens" because they looked like praying arms crossed across someone's chest.

## Pastoral & Program Staff

Eric Banitt  
*Accompanist / Pianist*

Rev. Megan Berry  
*Resident Minister*

Barbara DeLancey  
*Parish Nurse*

David Hufford  
*Organist*

Rev. Hannah Lundberg  
*Resident Minister*

Rev. Mark Mares  
*Minister of Youth & Families*

Rev. Evans McGowan  
*Assistant Pastor of Faith Formation and Campus Ministries*

Stacey Pakela  
*Parish Nurse*

Shayla Powell  
*Children's Choir Director*

Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers  
*Associate Pastor*

Rev. Jay Sanderford  
*Associate Pastor*

Beca Torres-Davenport  
*Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry*

David VanderMeer  
*Minister of Music & Fine Arts*



Rev. Matthew J. Warfield  
*Resident Minister (In Memoriam)*

## Administrative Staff

Robin Agnew  
*Administrative Assistant*

Nick Dibacco-Vaidya  
*Finance Assistant*

Pat Gilbreath  
*Welcome Center Coordinator*

Almer Harris  
*Maintenance Specialist*

Kathy Houser  
*Technology Coordinator*

Diane Knibbs  
*Administrative Assistant*

Anna Miller  
*Finance Manager*

Allie Milot  
*Communications Coordinator*

Adrian Prundeanu  
*Facilities Manager*

Linda Robinson  
*Office Manager*



First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor  
1826-2021

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