



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

ASH WEDNESDAY

Worship and Communion



February 14, 2018
5:00 p.m.

As you entered the Sanctuary you received a paper cross. Please think about a special commitment you can make or something you can do to share your faith during Lent. Here are some ideas: help a neighbor, bring a friend to church, study more, volunteer with your family to help others, pick up your toys, or help a younger brother or sister. When you have chosen what you would like to do, write your commitment on your paper cross. During the worship service, you will be invited to come forward and hang your cross on the Lenten cross in front of the chancel steps.

The congregation speaks or sings those parts of the worship service in **bold type**.

Gathering

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Fair

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come from many families to worship God as one family of God.

All: Remembering our covenant, we come in faithfulness.

One: We come to mark the beginning of the season of Lent.

All: We come to remember through ashes and prayer.

One: We come to break bread together.

All: We come to receive the cup in Christ's name.

One: Come, let us renew ourselves as we worship together.

All: Let us worship God!

HYMN

Sign Us with Ashes

PHOENIX

Please remain seated to sing the refrain when indicated.



All

Sign us with ash - es, mer - ci - ful God, chil - dren of

dust, as to dust we re - turn. Sign us with ash - es,

mer - ci - ful God. Mark us and make us your own. *Fine*

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Proclaiming

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Dr. Fair

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2:12-13

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Love the Lord

Austin C. Lovelace

Love the Lord, love the Lord, love the Lord with all your heart.

Love the Lord and love each other.

I will love the Lord with all my heart.

Love the Lord, love the Lord, love the Lord with all your soul.

Love the Lord with all your being.

I will love the Lord with all my soul.

Seek the Lord, seek the Lord, seek the Lord with all your mind.

In God's Word His Truth I find.

I will seek the Lord with all my mind.

Serve the Lord, serve the Lord, serve the Lord with all your strength.

Heart and soul and mind and strength –

I will love the Lord with all I am.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Rev. Parks-Piatt

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION AND INVITATION TO LENT

CHORAL RESPONSE

For Things that I Do Wrong, O Lord

Michael Bedford

For things that I do wrong, O Lord,
For things I fail to do,
Forgive me, Lord, as I forgive others;
I put my trust in you.

You are with me in my times of need,
You guide me through each day.
When I cannot see what's best for me,
You are there to show the way.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Sanderford

One: For all the times we fail to do what we know is right,

All: we are sorry, Lord.

One: For all the times we do what we know is wrong,

All: we are sorry, Lord.

One: For all the times we fail to love each other,

All: we are sorry, Lord.

One: For all the times we fail to love you,

All: we are sorry, Lord.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

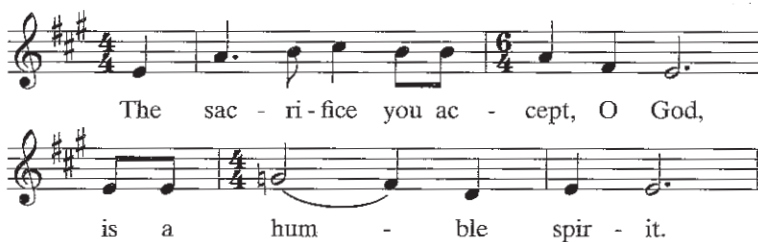
You are invited to come forward to hang your cross on the Lenten cross and receive ashes. You may ask the ashes be placed on your forehead or on your hand. The ashes remind us that we belong to Jesus Christ.

CONFESSIONAL PSALM

Psalm 51

David Clark Isele

Please sing the refrain when indicated.



The sac - ri - fice you ac - cept, O God,
is a hum - ble spir - it.

PRAYER

Holy God, you made us from dust.

Let these crosses remind us of Jesus.

Let these ashes tell us again how loved we are, now and forever.

O God, thank you for loving us so much. Amen.

Responding

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Revs. Koenig-Reinke and Parks-Piatt

All: We come from the east and west.

We come from the north and south to feast at our Lord's table.

Children are invited to join the ministers at the communion table and to bring their bulletins with them.

Children: Who can come to this table?

One: Jesus invites all those who trust him to come to this 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.

Children: Why do we give thanks at this table?

One: We give thanks for God's creation,
for making us in God's image.

We give thanks because God never gives up on us
even though we are not faithful to God.

We give thanks because when it was time,
God sent Jesus, God's child, to show God's love for us.

Children: How do we thank and praise God for all this?

One: With all the faithful people of every time and place in the world,
we sing this song of God's glory:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power— 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.

Words of Institution

Children: **What do we remember at this table?**

One: We remember Jesus, God's child.

All: *Jesus healed the sick and restored sight to the blind;
 Jesus welcomed strangers and ate with outcasts.
 Dying on the cross, Jesus saved us from our sin,
 Risen from the dead, Jesus gives us new life.*

Children: **Why do we eat bread at this table?**

One: Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his friends.
 He said, "This is my body, broken for you."

Children: **Why do we drink from the cup at this table?**

One: Jesus gave them the cup as the promise that our sins are forgiven.
 He said, "This is my blood, poured out for you."

Children: **But this is just everyday bread and grape juice.**

One: Let us pray that the everyday bread and juice will become holy.
 Gracious God, send your Holy Spirit to be with us and upon these,
 your gifts of bread and cup, that the bread we break and the cup we
 bless may bring us closer to Jesus and Jesus closer to us. Amen.

Children will return to their seats with their families.

Communion

All communion cups contain only non-alcoholic grape juice. Communion will be served by intinction. There are two stations at the chancel steps. Worshipers are invited to come forward by the center aisle to the station closest to them. Worshipers receive a wafer and dip it in the common cup, thus receiving both elements. Please return to the pews by a side aisle. Those unable to come forward will be served where they are seated. Gluten-free wafers are available.

Prayer after Communion Psalm 103

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

All: and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

All: and forget not all God's blessings.

Sending

* Hymn 525

Here I Am, Lord

HERE I AM, LORD

Please sing stanza 1.

* Charge and Benediction

* Congregational Response

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.

* Postlude

Here I Am, Lord

Janet Linker

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Worship leadership is provided by Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, Pastor/Head of Staff; Rev. Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor; Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke, Resident Minister; Rev. Dorothy Parks-Piatt, Resident Minister; Tom Granum, Director of Music Ministries; Doris Granum, Children's Choir director; Gayle Stevens, piano; and Deborah MacVey, Director of Children's Education and Family Ministries.

Portions of the communion liturgy are taken from *Belonging to God, A Catechism Resource for Worship*, Geneva Press.

Continuing a long-standing tradition at First Pres, children and their parents or grandparents are assisting in the serving of communion. The parents and grandparents serving are all ordained elders or deacons. We rejoice that our children are part of the family of God. Participating in the service are communion servers Brian Dabrowski and his son James; Paula Doering and her granddaughters Sophie and Vivian Licata; Jean Song and her son Nick; and Brian Schneidewind and his daughters Lucy, Molly, and Emma.

Greeters are Lucie Audette and Peggy Jensen.

Ushers are Ken and Ali Westfall, Sandy Talbott, and Paul and Carol Smith.

Baskets are placed at each door for your offering. Gifts received tonight will be directed to Friends In Deed.

Please join us immediately following this service for Ash Wednesday Dinner in the Social Hall. The cost is \$10/person (\$40 for a nuclear family of 4 or more) if you have not prepaid. The menu features roasted chicken, mushroom polenta, salad, and dessert.

Ecumenical Taizé Worship is in the Sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. This service will include scripture, silent reflection, imposition of ashes, Holy Communion, and music from the ecumenical community of Taizé, France.

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.

Lenten Activity Guide

Preparing 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, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday, March 25, at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, March 29, at 10:30 a.m. at Glacier Hills and at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Good Friday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 1, at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.

Crafts:

Create a Tree of Crosses - Find a dead tree branch and place it in a coffee can filled with sand. Cut out crosses and write a special commitment on each one. Attach a piece of ribbon to the top of each and hang them from the tree.

Create a Special Snack for the Birds - This activity helps us to remember to care for all of God's creatures. Use a cookie cutter to cut a shape out of a slice of bread. Poke a hole in the top with a straw and brush the bread with egg white. Press birdseed onto the bread shape and let it dry. Thread a piece of yarn or string through the hole and hang it on a tree branch.

Make a Giving Box - Decorate a shoe box or coffee can with Lenten symbols. At the end of each day, have each family member put the extra change in their purses or pockets into the container. After a few weeks, donate the money to church, a shelter or a charity.

Make a Hosanna Egg - Write "Hosanna! Christ Is Risen!" on a slip of paper. Fold it up and put it in a plastic Easter egg. Put torn pieces of tissue paper on the egg, using a paint brush and a 50/50 mixture of white glue and water to stick them on. Let the eggs dry. Open the eggs on Easter morning.

Bring a Sign of Spring Indoors - If you have a pussy willow or forsythia bush in your yard, cut some branches on a slant and bring them in the house. Set them in a container of warm water and put them in a cool place, like the basement, until the branches begin to leaf out. The water and warmth will cause them to bloom – a symbol of spring and of our renewal in Christ.

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.

The Days of Holy Week:

Palm Sunday, celebrated this year on March 25, is the specific day when we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. 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 March 29, 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 March 30. 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 1, 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.