



A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

March 2, 2022
Ash Wednesday
5:30pm

PEACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

301 Guinness Drive ▪ Winterville, North Carolina 28590-9943 ▪ (252) 355-2273 www.peacepresbyterian.org

Grow in Grace, Live in Peace, Serve the Lord

We Gather as God's People

PRELUDE

Lyric Pieces, No. 1: Arietta, Op 12

Edvard Grieg

*CALL TO WORSHIP

With Christians around the world, we begin the season of Lent. It is a season to remember the suffering of Jesus Christ.

It is a season to remember that to follow Christ is to take up our crosses and live for Christ.

It is a season to remember Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?"

It is a season to ask ourselves how we, like Simon of Cyrene, might help to bear the cross.

It is a season to ask ourselves how we, like Peter, are afraid and deny Jesus.

It is a season to ask ourselves, what we, like the woman with fine ointment, have to offer.

It is a season to watch and wait with Christ in prayer, that we may have courage in the hour of testing.

It is a season to proclaim with Mary Magdalene that Christ is not dead but alive!

*HYMN

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win, O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.

Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past, an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The prophet Joel cried out: Return to the Lord with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. For God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Let us confess our sins and turn away from behavior and attitudes which separate us from God and each other.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of truth, how difficult it is for us to acknowledge the truth of who we are. We want to hide our anxieties and fears, our resentments and self-centeredness. Cut through our evasions by the truth of your Word, and help us to be honest.

God of mercy, your hopes for us are greater than our own, yet our failures do not surprise you. Forgive us, we pray, even for the sin we cannot see or find too painful to confess.

God of love, accept us as we are, so that we may accept ourselves. Teach us to affirm what is good in our lives, and to put behind us what is unworthy, that by your grace we may live in confidence and joy, in the manner of Jesus our Christ. Hear now our silent individual confessions.

(Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom shall be like the noonday. In the name of Jesus Christ, know that you are forgiven and rejoice.
(from Isaiah 58:9)

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE TO GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

Tw'as grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

We Listen to God's Word

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 16: 13-20

SERMON

"Who do you say that I am?"

Reverend Debbie Osterhoudt

We Respond to God's Word

SOLO

Sign Us With Ashes
Peggy Vaughan, soprano

William Rowan

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND OUR 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

***INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE**

Thanksgiving over the Ashes

Imposition of the Ashes

(The congregation is invited to come forward to receive the mark of Christ upon our foreheads.)

We Are Sent in God's Name

*HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress."

* CHARGE & BLESSING

POSTLUDE

From "For Children" Book 2

Bela Bartok

7. Song of the Rogue

33. Deep in the Forest

***You are invited to stand.**

Worship Leadership Reverend Debbie Osterhoudt, Preacher Peggy Vaughan, Soloist John Holter, piano
Audio / video, Ron Skinner Worship Ministry Team Chair, Joanne Lang

WORSHIP NOTES The Session discussed our policy regarding Covid 19. Currently, we are mandating that masks be worn during worship. Because of the rise of a new variant and the infection rate, while down, continues to be high, and in an abundance of caution, the Session voted to maintain this mask mandate. We continue to monitor the situation and the Session is diligent in putting the safety of our congregation first.

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2. We invite you to join us as we begin this approximately six week journey to the cross and the celebration of new life on Easter morning. Our worship will include the placing of ashes in the form of a cross on our foreheads, reminding us that we were created by God from the dust of the earth and we will return to dust. Ash Wednesday and the following days of Lent are the liturgical season when we are invited to consider our sinfulness, repent and believe that God offers us forgiveness and new life.

Lent is the season of the church year when we consider the multitude of ways our sin distorts God's intention for our creation. Implied in this understanding of sin as a distortion of God's creative purposes, God's creative purposes for our lives and all of creation can be restored or healed if we acknowledge our complicity. We can change! We can experience life as God intends. We can be open to and participate in this transformation through God's power, because "all things are possible through God." During the Sundays of Lent we will consider the lives of various people from the gospels, whose lives were transformed by the power of Jesus Christ to make all things new.

Maundy Thursday is April 14, the day we remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples as he shared Passover. This year we will remember that final meal by celebrating a Seder worship around the tables in the Fellowship Hall. Come join us at 7 pm on Thursday, April 14.