

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

All: have mercy on us, O God.

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

All: have mercy on us, O God.

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

All: Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*HYMN *Open My Eyes That I May See* No. 324

*PRAYER

*HYMN *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* No. 383 Vs. 1

*BLESSING AND CHARGE (Responsively)

Pastor: May the God of peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being—
spirit, soul and body—free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Please depart quietly.

† † † † †

*Those who are able may stand.

Depart This House That We Might Witness Together!

*When you fast,
put oil on your head
and wash your face,
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.*

—Matthew 6:17

First Presbyterian Church

March 5, 2025

Ash Wednesday

† † † † †

Morrison, Illinois

7:00PM

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively) (*See John 3:17; Psalm 46:1-3*)

Pastor: God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

All: God's love endures forever.

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

All: God's love endures forever.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (Responsively)

Pastor: Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness, and strengthen us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy; in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

***HYMN** *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven* No. 479

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Responsively)

Pastor: God our helper, by your Holy Spirit open our minds, that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may be led into your truth and be taught your will, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 58:1-12

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

***HYMN** *Kind Maker of the World* No. 79

GOSPEL READING Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

PSALM 51:1-17 (Responsively)

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

All: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Pastor: Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

All: Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

Pastor: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
All: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Pastor: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

All: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Pastor: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

All: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

Pastor: Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

All: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

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

All: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

LITANY OF PENITENCE (Responsively)

All: 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.

Pastor: 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.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

Pastor: 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.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

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

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

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

All: have mercy on us, O God.

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

People: have mercy on us, O God.

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

All: have mercy on us, O God.

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

All: have mercy on us, O God.

Pastor: 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,

All: have mercy on us, O God.