

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 26, 2020

ALIVE,

CELEBRATING

& SERVING

THE LIVING LORD!

*The mission of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
is to reflect the loving presence of Christ
as we serve others faithfully, worship God joyfully and share life together
in a diverse and generous community.*

In preparation for worship please take the opportunity to speak silently to God.
At the close of the service let us greet one another with cheerfulness.
Please be sure that your cell phone is turned off during worship.

February 26, 2020

Ash Wednesday

ORDER OF EVENING WORSHIP AT 7:00 PM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Be Thou with Me*

J.S. Bach

Introit: *Softly and Tenderly*

Thurman

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Welcome, travelers, to the journey of faith.

Many: The faith journey is the best route through the land called life.

One: Then come and continue the quest, acting out faith by living life to the fullest.

Many: Let us gather and sanctify all of this congregation—young and old, male and female, joyful and sorrow-filled.

One: This is a day of true repentance, a time to turn to God with all our hearts.

Many: We turn to God in repentance for all those things which we have done that we should not have done and those things we have left undone which we should have done. We rend our hearts and not our garments.

One: We seek God's amazing forgiveness.

Many: We affirm that God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

All: This is the way we worship God.

*Hymn 2138: *Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes* (from *Sing the Faith*)

BEACH SPRING

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

One: In preparation, present yourselves before God. Come in your brokenness, acknowledging where you have fallen short of God's expectations and of your own. (*Time of silent reflection.*) Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

Many: The brokenness that hinders me, I lay before you.

One: Come in your pain, acknowledge your hurt and accepting how you have hurt others. (*Time of silent reflection.*) Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

Many: All the pain I have in my life—the pain I have caused and the pain I feel—I lay before you.

One: Come in your weakness, acknowledging your lack of confidence to do what is right. (*Time of silent reflection.*) Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

Many: The weakness that holds me captive, I lay before you.

One: Come in your fear, acknowledging your failure to seek justice. (*Time of silent reflection.*) Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy

*congregation standing; †latecomers may be seated

Spirit from me.

Many: **The fear that binds me, I lay before you.**

One: Come in your hesitancy, acknowledging your resistance to God's call. (*Time of silent reflection.*) Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

Many: **My hesitancy in doing your will, I lay before you.**

One: Come in your failings, acknowledging what you have done and left undone. (*Time of silent reflection.*) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Many: **The hollowness that saps my strength and leaves me lifeless, I lay before you.**

One: All that we are, all that we have done, all that we confess, we lay before you, O God.

Many: **My hesitancy in doing your will, I lay before you.**

All: **Relieve the weight of the burden, I lay before you. In Jesus' name we pray.**

Silent Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

†*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

The First Lesson: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Page 798 OT

Leader: God's Word is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem: *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God*

Healey Willan

Text: Psalm 51:10-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

The Second Lesson: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Pages 5-6 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: **The story of your grace.**

Meditation: **BURN NOTICE**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Call to Offering

Offertory: *If with All Your Hearts* (from *Elijah*)

Felix Mendelssohn

David Kellett, tenor

Ye people, rend your hearts and not your garments for your transgressions:

The prophet Elijah hath sealed the heavens through the word of God.

I therefore say to ye: forsake your idols, return to God;

For he is slow to anger, and merciful, and kind, and gracious, and repenteth him of the evil.

"If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me." Thus saith our God.

Oh! that I knew where I might find him, that I might even come before his presence!

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline

Responsive Reading of Psalm 51

One: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

All: Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

One: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

All: Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

One: And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.

**All: Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.**

One: For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

**All: Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

One: Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

All: Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

One: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

**All: Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy Spirit from me.**

One: Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

All: I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.

One: Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.

All: Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

One: Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

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

Imposition of Ashes

Prayer of Commitment

One: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

All: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

One: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

All: bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection. Amen.

*Hymn #525: *Here I Am, Lord*

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response : #584

DRESDEN

Postlude: *Jesus, Priceless Treasure*

J.S. Bach