



St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022

6:30 PM



4882 Lavista Road, Tucker GA 30084

sapctucker.org

March 2 Ash Wednesday
Matthew 6:1-16, 16-21
Isaiah 58:1-12

March 6 *Always Growing*
Philippians 3:8-14
Acts 2:42-47

March 13 *Being Church Together*
John 2:13-35
Matthew 15:1-9

March 20 *Loving Our Neighbors*
John 1:1-14
Matthew 25: 31-46

March 27 *Nurturing Each Other's Gifts*
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 13:1-20

April 3 *For the Good of All*
John 8:1-12
Galatians 6:1-10

April 10 Palm/Passion Sunday
Encountering God
Exodus 3:1-6
John 12:1-12

April 14 Maundy Thursday

April 15 Good Friday

April 17 Easter
Go and Tell: Intentional, Authentic Evangelism
Romans 10:1-17
John 20:1-18

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Camille LeBron Powell, Pastor
John McCrosky, Director of Children and Youth Ministries
David Lukens, Director of Music
Edward Weaver, Associate Director of Music and Organist
Pat Baker, Director of Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries
Lonnelle Bruce, St. Andrews School Director
Debbie Hutto, Finance Administrator
Gretchen Perkins, Office Manager

Ash Wednesday begins Lent, the 40 days that lead from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. In Lent we consider the ways that our faith-filled commitments have become dull and consider renewal. Ash Wednesday begins this journey.

Ash Wednesday is an old celebration. Since the 10th century, ashes have been used to visibly remind worshipers of our mortality. Today, Ash Wednesday is celebrated in many Christian denominations. When we apply ashes to our forehead, we do so with a line from Genesis, "you are dust and to dust to shall return." We will all die someday. God is in control of this basic reality, not us.

In Lent, we are invited to live into the reality that through the goodness and mercy of God, all of who we are belongs. Nothing about us or our experience is wasted or hated; even the difficult parts will be used in our favor. In fact, what we consider to be broken and a mess are the very openings for being with God, who is love. The fruits of this sacred belonging, or union, with God are love and new life. Traditionally, Lent has been observed through fasting, prayer and acts of compassion. This year, we invite you to also to befriend all the shadows and messy matters of our lives.

"Finally I am coming to the conclusion that my highest ambition is to be what I already am. That I will never fulfill my obligation to surpass myself unless I first accept myself, and if I accept myself fully in the right way, I will already have surpassed myself." (Thomas Merton)

Welcome to the journey!

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

† **When this symbol precedes an element of the service,**
please rise in body or spirit, as able

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENT

PRELUDE

†CALL TO WORSHIP

From dust we came, and to dust we shall return

We belong to God

We gather in compassion, we gather in confidence

We belong to God

This day at the beginning of Lent, at every moment of our lives

We belong to God

†HYMN 415

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

RESTORATION

OPENING PRAYER

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 58:1-12

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

MEDITATION

Dusty

Kristen Sommerfeld

PRAYER AND REFLECTION ON REPENTANCE

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

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

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

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach us wisdom in the secret of our hearts.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

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. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

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

O Lord, open our lips, and our mouths will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice; if we were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

God creates in us a new heart. God puts a new and right spirit within us.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; God will not despise a broken and contrite heart.

God hears our prayers and forgives us.

We thank God for it.

†HYMN 836

Abide with Me

EVENTIDE

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVATION OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

RESPONSES

Choose this day whom you will serve;

We will choose the living God.

The road is narrow that leads to life;

We will walk the way of Christ.

Faith is not our holding on;

Faith is letting go.

We offer more than words, O God;

We offer you our lives.

DEPARTURE AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

As you exit the sanctuary a worship leader will mark the sign of the cross on your forehead, while saying the words from Genesis, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

You are invited to respond, "In life and in death, I belong to God."