

Ash Wednesday begins the 40-day journey to Easter Sunday. Since the 10th century, ashes have been used to visibly remind worshipers of our mortality. Today, Ash Wednesday is celebrated in many Christian denominations by applying ashes to the forehead as a reminder that we will all die someday and 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. Traditionally, Lent has been observed through fasting, prayer, and acts of compassion. This year, we invite you to also befriend all the shadows and messy matters of our lives. Welcome to the journey!

Lenten Devotionals are available in the narthex or in the courtyard by the door to the office. The devotional books have full-color artwork, reflections, and places to journal. The devotional cards contain scriptures and prayers for the Lenten season.

Lenten Studies We have two opportunities for study this lent:

Saturday mornings at 10:00, beginning 2/17 in the Meeting Room, a group is gathering to study Amy Jill Levine's *Entering the Passion of Jesus*. Contact Mary McCowen for more information, mary.mccowen@comcast.net

The Sunday Morning Together Sunday School class begins *Hard and Holy Work* by Birdwhistell and Mayfield this Sunday, at 8:45 AM in the Meeting Room. Contact LaVerne Byas-Smith for more information, laverne@sapctucker.org

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Camille LeBron Powell, Pastor
LaVerne Byas-Smith, Coordinator of Congregational Vitality
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
Helen Hoang, Finance Administrator
Gretchen Perkins, Office Manager

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

6:30 PM



4882 Lavista Road, Tucker GA 30084
sapctucker.org

Tune My Heart

poem by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Tune my heart.
Like an old violin,
like a worn down piano,
I have been left out in all manners of weather;
I have been left alone for far too long.
So like a concertmaster
with a steady hand,
tune me up.
Listen and learn
the cracked keys,
the broken strings.
Memorize the forgotten intervals
that even I did not know.
And then, when we're ready,
When this creaky heart is tuned,
teach me a new song.

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 *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* Stan Pethel

†CALL TO WORSHIP

From dust we came, to dust we shall return

We belong to God

We gather in compassion, we gather in confidence

We belong to God

At the beginning of Lent, at every moment in our lives

We belong to God

†**HYMN 475** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* NETTLETON

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING *Psalm 51:1-17*

REFLECTION Rev. Dr. Camille LeBron Powell

LITANY OF CONFESSION

Dust we are, O God, and to dust we shall return.

Have mercy on us.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, soul and mind.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have turned away from those in need,

And squandered our inheritance with self-indulgence.

Have mercy on us.

Have mercy on us, O loving and gracious God.

Forgive us all our sins and weaknesses, our anger and hate.

We confess our prejudice and intolerance, our greed and envy.

We have sinned against heaven and before you;

And we are no longer worthy to be called your children.

But you are gracious and merciful.

Like a loving mother and father, welcome us back into your arms, that we may know your forgiveness and acceptance.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVATION OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Worshippers are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of the ashes.
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."*

WORDS OF COMMITMENT

**Lord Jesus Christ,
You called your disciples to go forward with you.
On the way to the cross.
Since you first walked that road
Countless millions have followed you.
In all that we do as your disciples,
Save us from false familiarity with your journey.
May we never presume to step into your shoes,
But make us small enough to fit our own,
And to walk in love and wonder behind you.**

†**HYMN 836** *Abide with Me* EVENTIDE

†CLOSING PRAYER

†BENEDICTION