



First Presbyterian  
Church *of* Beaufort



Ash Wednesday  
Six in the Evening  
February 17, 2021

Sanctuary: 410 Church Street

Office, Education & Outreach Building: 1201 North Street

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*Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. The Imposition of Ashes is a powerful and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. This practice is the historic focus of our Ash Wednesday observance and gives the day its name.*

*Please use silence and meditation to begin our worship together.*

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

*We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins, aware of our frailty and our failings.*

**We come seeking God's mercy,  
acknowledging our limits and mortality.**

*Having received the waters of baptism,*

**We come to be marked now with ashes.**

*May we humble ourselves before God  
not with a yoke of burden*

**but a mantle of freedom in Jesus' name.**

#### PRAYER

**Jesus, holy and strong,  
by your fasting and temptation teach us self-denial;  
control and discipline us that we may learn to obey.**

**Almighty and merciful God,  
You hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all who are penitent;  
create in us new and contrite hearts,  
so that when we turn to you and confess our sins  
we may receive your full and perfect forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer**

**God of the wilderness, as we follow Jesus into the unknown,  
may we recognize the tempter when he comes; let it be your  
bread we eat, your world we serve and you alone we worship**

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
 What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
 What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
 to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
 to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!*

*When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
 when I was sinking down, sinking down,  
 when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,  
 Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
 Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.*

*To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,  
 to God and to the Lamb I will sing,  
 to God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,  
 while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
 while millions join the theme, I will sing.*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

*The prophet announces the proper fast, one that  
 humbles the self while attending to the needs of others.  
 May we consider how to care better for others  
 than we do for ourselves.*

## EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

*Everything has become new in Christ.  
 We are reconciled to God and called to become  
 agents of reconciliation in the world.*

## ANTHEM

Dust and Ashes  
 (join in singing when invited)

Wren

**DUST AND ASHES**

Brian Wren David Haas

Take us by the hand and lead — us,  
 lead us through the des-ert sands, bring us liv - ing  
 wa - ter, Ho-ly Spir - it, come.

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*Jesus teaches us not to make a show of our religion.  
Don't draw attention to yourself, instead humbly point to Jesus.*

## PSALTER READING

*selected verses from Psalm 103*

*May everything within me bless the Lord and the Lord's holy name. Let us never forget God's goodness to us. God forgives our sins, heals and saves, and crowns us with kindness and compassion.*

**The LORD remembers that we are dust.**

*Compassionate and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and overflowing with steadfast love. God will not always accuse or always be angry.*

**The LORD remembers that we are dust.**

*God does not deal with us according to our sin or repay us according to our wrongdoing. For as the heavens are high above the earth so great is God's kindness for those who give God honor.*

**The LORD remembers that we are dust.**

*Like a parent who feels compassion for their child—that is how God acts toward us who worship. Because God knows how we were made.*

**The LORD remembers that we are dust.**

*The days of a human life are like grass: they bloom like the wildflower; but when the wind blows through it, it is gone; even the ground doesn't remember it.*

**The LORD remembers that we are dust.**

*But the Lord's faithful love is from forever ago to forever from now for those who honor and worship God. And God's righteousness reaches to the grandchildren of those who keep God's covenant and commands.*

**The LORD remembers that we are dust.**

## INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

*Psalm 51 - Have Mercy*

*Have mercy God in your great grace  
Wash me from every staining trace  
Of sin and evil I have done  
I pray to you the Holy One*

*Before you only have I sinned  
Your eyes have seen what I have been  
A sinner from the time of birth  
Come now, transform me, give me worth*

*Cleanse me from sin, I shall be pure  
Your joy and gladness will endure  
My broken spirit in your hands  
Help me to follow your commands*

*Create O God within my heart  
A path to make a fresh new start  
And shape a spirit within me  
That steadfast, sure and right will be*

*Do not remove me from your sight  
Or take your Spirit shining bright  
Give me the joy your help provides  
Your Holy Spirit as my guide*

*God, I will teach your ways of grace  
And sinners then will seek your face  
Save me and rescue, God of mine  
And I will sing your praise divine*

*Open my mouth that I may raise  
A song to you of glorious praise  
The sacrifice that brings you joy  
A humble heart you will employ*

- Patrick Perryman

BLESSING AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

BLESSING AND CHARGE