



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
Ann Arbor | Michigan

## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

### **Worship and Communion**



**March 6, 2019**  
**5:00 p.m.**

**As you entered the Sanctuary** you received a paper cross. As talked about in the Holy Conversation, please think about carrying a cross for someone else as a sign of your faith during Lent. Here are some ideas: help a neighbor, bring a friend to church, study more, volunteer with your family to help others, pick up your toys, or help a younger brother or sister. During the worship service, you will be invited to come forward to hang your cross on the Lenten cross in front of the Chancel steps as a reminder that Jesus came to bare all crosses.

The congregation speaks or sings those parts of the worship service in **bold type**.

## Gathering

PRELUDE

*Be Merciful to Me, O Lord God*

Heinrich Scheidemann

WELCOME

Rev. Sanderford

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come from many families to worship God as one family of God.

**All: Remembering our covenant, we come in faithfulness.**

One: We come to mark the beginning of the season of Lent.

**All: We come to remember through ashes and prayer.**

One: We come to break bread together.

**All: We come to receive the cup in Christ's name.**

One: Come, let us renew ourselves as we worship together.

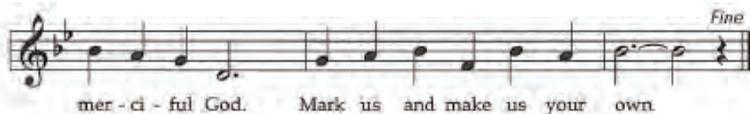
**All: Let us worship God!**

HYMN

*Sign Us with Ashes*

PHOENIX

*Please remain seated to sing the refrain when indicated.*



## CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Piatt

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: For all the times we fail to do what we know is right,

**All: we are sorry, Lord.**

One: For all the times we do what we know is wrong,

**All: we are sorry, Lord.**

One: For all the times we fail to love each other,

**All: we are sorry, Lord.**

One: For all the times we fail to love you,

**All: we are sorry, Lord.**

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

# Proclaiming

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Cassie Dutch

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

Mark 8:27–29, 34

Liam Phillips

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

## HOLY CONVERSATION

*Bearing Crosses*

One: . . . Jesus says to us,

**All: Take up your cross and follow me.**

## CHORAL RESPONSE

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

## INVITATION TO RECEIVE ASHES

Rev. Sanderford

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

You are invited to come forward to hang your cross on the Lenten cross and receive ashes. You may ask that the ashes be placed on your forehead or on your hand. The ashes remind us that we belong to Jesus Christ.

### CONFESSIONAL

### Change My Heart, O God

### CHANGE MY HEART

Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.  
 Cám - bia - me, Se - ñor, con tu gran po - der.  
 향 상 진 실 케 내 맘 바 꾸 사

*Fine*

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.  
 Haz - me co - mo tí, tu yo quie - ro ser.  
 주 님 의 모 습 님 게 하 소 서

You are the Pot - ter; I am the clay.  
 Tú el al - fa - re - ro, yo el ba - rro soy.  
 주 는 토 기 장 이 나 는 진 흙

*to Refrain / al Estribillo / 후렴*

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.  
 Só - lo a tu j - ma - gen, quie - ro siem - pre ser.  
 날 빛 으 소 서 기 도 하 오 니

## PRAYER

Holy God, you made us from dust.

Let these crosses remind us of Jesus.

Let these ashes tell us again how loved we are, now and forever.

O God, thank you for loving us so much. Amen.

## Responding

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### Invitation to the Lord's Table

Revs. Koenig-Reinke and Piatt

One: This is the Lord's Table. It is a table of welcome for all God's children, a table that makes visible God's free gift of love, a love we do not deserve, but a love God wants to give us. Come, children of God, to the table set by God, who loves us before we earn that love and in spite of all that we do wrong. Come, taste and know the grace and love of God.

*Please join in the invitation:*

**All: We come from the east and west.  
We come from the north and south.  
To feast at our Lord's table.**

### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*All sing:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

One: We also pray together as Jesus taught his disciples, saying:

**All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## Communion

*All communion cups contain only non-alcoholic grape juice. Communion will be served by intinction. There are two stations at the chancel steps. Worshipers are invited to come forward by the center aisle to the station closest to them. Worshipers receive a piece of bread and dip it in the common cup, thus receiving both elements. Please return to the pews by a side aisle. Those unable to come forward will be served where they are seated. Gluten-free wafers are available.*

### Communion Music

*Be Merciful to Me, O Lord God*

J. S. Bach

### Prayer after Communion

Psalm 103

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

**All: and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!**

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

**All: and forget not all God's blessings.**



## Sending



### \* Hymn 525

*Here I Am, Lord*

HERE I AM, LORD

*Please sing stanza 1.*

### \* Charge and Benediction

### \* Congregational Response

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.**

**I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.**

### \* Postlude

*Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God*

Johann Gottfried Walther

---

---

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

**Worship leadership** is provided by Rev. Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor; Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke, Resident Minister; Rev. Dorothy Piatt, Resident Minister; Paul Haebig, Interim Organist; Kellie McInchak, Interim Children's Choir Director; Gayle Stevens, piano; and Beca Torres-Davenport, Director of Children's Education and Family Ministries.

**The Holy Conversation** is based on *Bearing Crosses* by Carolyn C. Brown.

**Holy Conversation readers** are Cassie Dutch and Liam Phillips.

**Continuing a long-standing tradition at First Pres, children and their parents or grandparents are assisting in the serving of communion.** The parents serving are all ordained elders or deacons. We rejoice that our children are part of the family of God. Serving today are Alena and Nicholas with Jean Song; Molly, Emma, and Lucy with Brian Schneidewind; and Aidan and Chloe with Holly Majorprice.

**Greeter** is Jill Binkley.

**Ushers** are Ken and Ali Westfall, Sandy Talbott, and Paul and Carol Smith.

**Sound operator** is Rol Kibler.

**Baskets are placed at each door for your offering.** Gifts received tonight will be directed to Friends In Deed.

**Please join us immediately following this service for Ash Wednesday Dinner** in the Social Hall. The cost is \$10/person (\$40 for a nuclear family of 4 or more), if you have not prepaid. The menu features ribs and mashed potatoes. The vegetarian option is polenta with eggplant and cheese.

**Ecumenical Taizé Worship** is in the Sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. This service will include scripture, silent reflection, imposition of ashes, Holy Communion, and music from the ecumenical community of Taizé, France.

## **The Days of Holy Week:**

**Palm Sunday**, celebrated this year on April 14, is the specific day when we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Many churches reenact Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on this Sunday during the season of Lent. This practice can be traced back to the fourth century in the city of Jerusalem. During this procession, participants carry palms and other branches into the church. The church becomes a symbol of the city of Jerusalem. After the procession with palms, the worship service that follows usually becomes more somber as Holy Week begins.

**Maundy Thursday**, this year on April 18, is the Thursday that occurs during Holy Week. The emphasis for this Thursday is on Jesus' new commandment of love: "Love one another even as I have loved you." The word "maundy" comes from the English form of the Latin *mandatum*, which means commandment. Maundy Thursday is a combination of three things—a time to commemorate the Last Supper, a time when penitents are reconciled to the family of believers, and a time to prepare for Baptism. It is also a time when the discipline of Lent is concluded with forgiveness. Jesus' new commandment to his disciples, "Love one another even as I have loved you," contrasts sharply with Judas' betrayal at the completion of the Last Supper. Jesus' love for all people is demonstrated by his service to others, as well as in his gift of himself for our salvation. The washing of the disciples' feet as part of the Last Supper was a concrete example of the loving service Jesus shared with his followers. Foot washing is often a part of Maundy Thursday celebrations today, as a response to the new commandment and as a symbol of Christian charity and service.

**Good Friday** this year is April 19. The Friday during Holy Week became widely kept as a commemoration of the cross by the end of the fourth century. On Good Friday, we emphasize a time of reflection, intercession, and adoration of Christ as the sacrificial lamb. Many churches commemorate Good Friday with a Tenebrae service commemorating the sufferings and death of Christ. This service is conducted in a darkened church and is often thought of as a service of shadows.

**Easter Sunday**, celebrated this year on April 21, is the greatest Sunday of the church year, for the resurrection is the basis of our faith. As such, it is welcomed with song and procession and joy by millions of people throughout the world. The days of fasting and reflection in Lent are over. The celebration is just starting! Easter is the oldest festival of the church year. Unlike Christmas, Easter does not fall on the same day each year. Easter is always celebrated on a Sunday, but that Sunday can fall anywhere between March 22 and April 25. Easter is a most

**What is Lent?** Lent is the 40–day period of repentance and renewal preceding Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter’s dawn. The word “Lent” is derived from the Old English word “lencten,” which means “lengthen.” It refers to the lengthening of the daylight hours that occurs as spring approaches. Lent is a special time for meditation and prayer, giving us time to recall the Easter story and absorb its meaning – that Christ lived and died to redeem the world from sin.

## **Lenten Activity Guide**

### **Preparing Our Hearts for Easter During Lent:**

**Help Others.** Participate in community or church projects that help others; look for ways to help your neighbors, such as running errands for someone ill or housebound; give gently used toys and clothing to the needy; donate time and/or money to help alleviate hunger, poverty and suffering locally and around the world.

**Make Special Time for Prayer and Reflection** - Make prayer a daily habit. Set aside part of your day for quiet time when interruptions are at a minimum. Pray the psalms, use a devotional guide to choose daily prayers, or sign up to receive daily devotionals written by church members and staff. Think about things in your life that you need to change, and pray for help in changing them. Accept difficulties patiently, and through prayer, try to understand and accept them.

### **Attend Lenten and Easter Worship Services**

Each Sunday of Lent at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday, April 14, at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 18, at 10:30 a.m. at Glacier Hills and at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 21, at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.

## **Crafts:**

**Create a Tree of Crosses** - Find a dead tree branch and place it in a coffee can filled with sand. Cut out crosses and write a special commitment on each one. Attach a piece of ribbon to the top of each and hang them from the tree.

**Create a Special Snack for the Birds** - This activity helps us to remember to care for all of God's creatures. Use a cookie cutter to cut a shape out of a slice of bread. Poke a hole in the top with a straw and brush the bread with egg white. Press birdseed onto the bread shape and let it dry. Thread a piece of yarn or string through the hole and hang it on a tree branch.

**Make a Giving Box** - Decorate a shoe box or coffee can with Lenten symbols. At the end of each day, have each family member put the extra change in their purses or pockets into the container. After a few weeks, donate the money to church, a shelter or a charity.

**Make a Hosanna Egg** - Write "Hosanna! Christ Is Risen!" on a slip of paper. Fold it up and put it in a plastic Easter egg. Put torn pieces of tissue paper on the egg, using a paint brush and a 50/50 mixture of white glue and water to stick them on. Let the eggs dry. Open the eggs on Easter morning.

**Bring a Sign of Spring Indoors** - If you have a pussy willow or forsythia bush in your yard, cut some branches on a slant and bring them in the house. Set them in a container of warm water and put them in a cool place, like the basement, until the branches begin to leaf out. The water and warmth will cause them to bloom – a symbol of spring and of our renewal in Christ.

## Lenten Symbols:



Ashes are an ancient symbol of sorrow and repentance. Traditionally, the Ash Wednesday ashes are from the burning of the previous year's palms.



The butterfly is a symbol of the resurrection.



The crown of thorns is a symbol of the crucifixion.



Grapes and wheat symbolize the wine and bread shared during the Last Supper.



The palm branches remind us of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.



A bag of coins is symbolic of the 30 pieces of silver for which Judas betrayed Jesus.

**40**

Forty stands for the 40 days of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. It is a number used repeatedly in the Bible, and signifies "a period of transformation."



The rooster reminds us of Peter's three denials of Jesus.



Jesus used the basin and towel when he washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper.



Pretzels are a Lenten bread that came from Europe. Early settlers called them "pilgrims' tokens" because they looked like praying arms crossed across someone's chest.

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF**

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant  
Reverend Blair Buckley, Resident Minister  
GJ Frye, Peer Minister for Youth Ministry  
Lisa Haddrill, Technology Coordinator  
Dr. Paul Haebig, Interim Organist  
Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist  
Mary Jones, Publications Coordinator  
Cindy King, Administrative Assistant/Children's Education Assistant  
Reverend Eric Koenig-Reinke, Resident Minister  
Essie Koenig-Reinke, Youth Ministries Coordinator  
Dave Lett, Finance Assistant  
Reverend Evans McGowan, Campus Ministries Coordinator  
Kellie McInchak, Interim Children's Choir Director  
Anna Miller, Finance Manager  
Reverend Dorothy Piatt, Resident Minister  
Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager  
Linda Robinson, Office Manager  
Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor  
Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor  
Simon Suboski, Interim Youth Choir Director  
Sandy Talbott, Wellness Coordinator/Parish Nurse  
Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of  
Children's Education and Family Ministry



1432 Washtenaw Avenue  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734-662-4466  
info@firstpresbyterian.org  
www.firstpresbyterian.org