

Therefore, since we are surrounded
by so great a cloud of witnesses,

**Let us also lay aside every weight
and the sin that clings so closely,**

And let us run with perseverance the race that is set
before us, looking to Jesus

the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,

**Who for the sake of the joy that was set before him
endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has
taken his seat at the right hand of the throne
of God.**

UNISON PRAYER

**God of love, as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us,
so may we give ourselves to you. Keep our feet firmly
in the way where Christ leads us; make our mouths
speak the truth that Christ teaches us; fill our bodies
with the life that is Christ within us. In his holy name
we pray. Amen.**

*HYMN *Just as I Am, without One Plea* 442

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

*Please stand if you are able.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....

Downtown Lenten lunches will be held each Wednesday at noon:

3/1 First Baptist Church
3/8 Church Street UMC
3/15 Immaculate Conception Church
3/22 St. John's Episcopal Cathedral
3/29 First Presbyterian Church

Worshipful Wednesday Lenten Series starts March 1 at 6:30
pm. Dinner is served at 5:30 pm. (No Worshipful Wednesday on
March 15.)

Palm Sunday is April 2. Services will be held at 8:45 and 11 am.

The Maundy Thursday service is April 6 at 6:30 pm.

Easter Sunday is April 9. Services will be held at 7 and 11 am.
There will be light refreshments served between the early service and
the Sunday school hour (9:45 am).

WELCOME

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville. We have been part
of the downtown Knoxville community since 1792. We embrace
people from all walks of life and seek to share our spiritual journey
with our community. We are part of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

We are delighted that you have joined us in worship today.

To learn more about us, please make a note on the
Friendship Pad, sign up for our Thursday newsletter, or
connect with us at fpcknox.org, via the QR code to the
right, or through social media.



Hearing enhancement devices and large print hymnals are available
for use during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance.

OFFERING

You may place your offering in the offering plates when
they are passed, or you are invited give securely online at
www.fpcknox.org/donate or by scanning the QR code to
the right with your smart phone.



STAFF AND LEADERS IN WORSHIP

The Rev. Mark R. Curtis
Senior Pastor

The Rev. Meredith Loftis
Associate Pastor

Mark Pace
Organist/Choirmaster

Mary Wilson
Adult Ministry Coordinator

Katie Norrell
Director of Communications

Jane Holland
Director of Finance/Facilities

Laura Harmon
Church Administrator

Lauren Nunn
*Director of Parent's Day Out /
Childcare Coordinator*

Sandra Robinson
Administrative Assistant

Victor Lenoir
Custodian

Paul Seguna
Sound Engineer

FOR OUR YOUNGER WORSHIPPERS

*All children are welcome in worship at FPC. Worship Bags are available at
each entrance to the sanctuary. A nursery is available for children,
in preschool and younger, in the Nursery rooms (2nd floor).*



First Presbyterian Church
FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 22, 2023

Connect With Us



www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

ASH WEDNESDAY

PRELUDE But the Lord is Mindful of His Own Felix Mendelssohn
Tracy Pace, Alto

WELCOME AND GREETING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God sent Christ into the world
not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.

God's love endures forever.

God is our refuge and strength,
a present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear
though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though the waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
God's love endures forever.**

*HYMN Change My Heart, O God

695
One License #49853

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Sisters and brothers in Christ:
Every year at Easter we celebrate with joy
our redemption and renewal through the life, death,
and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

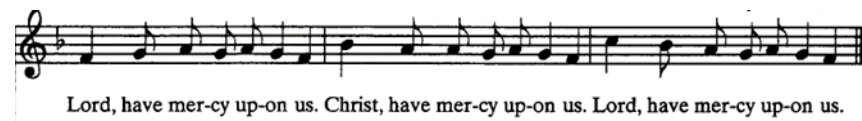
The season of Lent is a time
to prepare for this celebration
and to make room in our lives for the Spirit of God
to renew us in this mystery.

We begin this holy season
by acknowledging our need for repentance
and our need for the love and forgiveness shown to us
in Jesus Christ.

We invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ,
to observe a Holy Lent,
by looking at ourselves honestly
and asking for forgiveness,
by prayer and fasting,
by practicing works of love,
and by reading and reflecting on God's Holy Word.
Let us begin our Lenten journey together by confessing

our sins and seeking the forgiveness and new life that is
promised to us in Christ Jesus.

TIME OF CONFESSION (responsive) Psalm 51

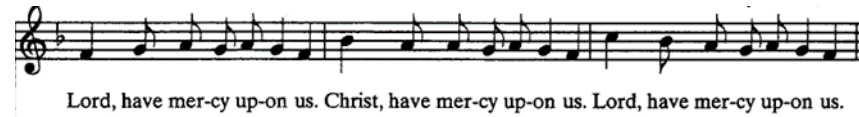


Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

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

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



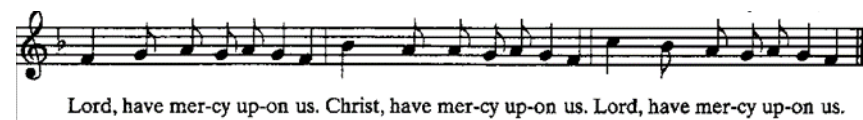
(silent confession)

You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

**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.**



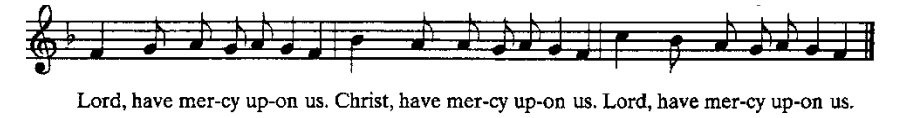
(silent confession)

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
You desire truth in the inward being;

teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

**For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I 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,
O God, you will not despise.**

(silent confession)



Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us your peace.

IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

Those who wish may come forward to be marked with ashes as a sign of
repentance. As each one comes forward, the sign of the cross will be
placed on his or her forehead, with the words "Remember that you are
dust, and to dust you shall return."

MUSIC DURING THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

O Man, Bewail Thy Grievous Fall Johann S. Bach

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

2 Corinthians 5:16-17

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of
view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of
view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ,
there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, every-
thing has become new!

SCRIPTURE READING (responsive) From Psalm 103 & Hebrews 2

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger
and abounding in steadfast love.

**God does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is God's steadfast love toward us;

**as far as the east is from the west,
so far does God remove our transgressions from us.**

As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion on us.

**For the Lord knows how we were made,
and remembers that we are dust.**