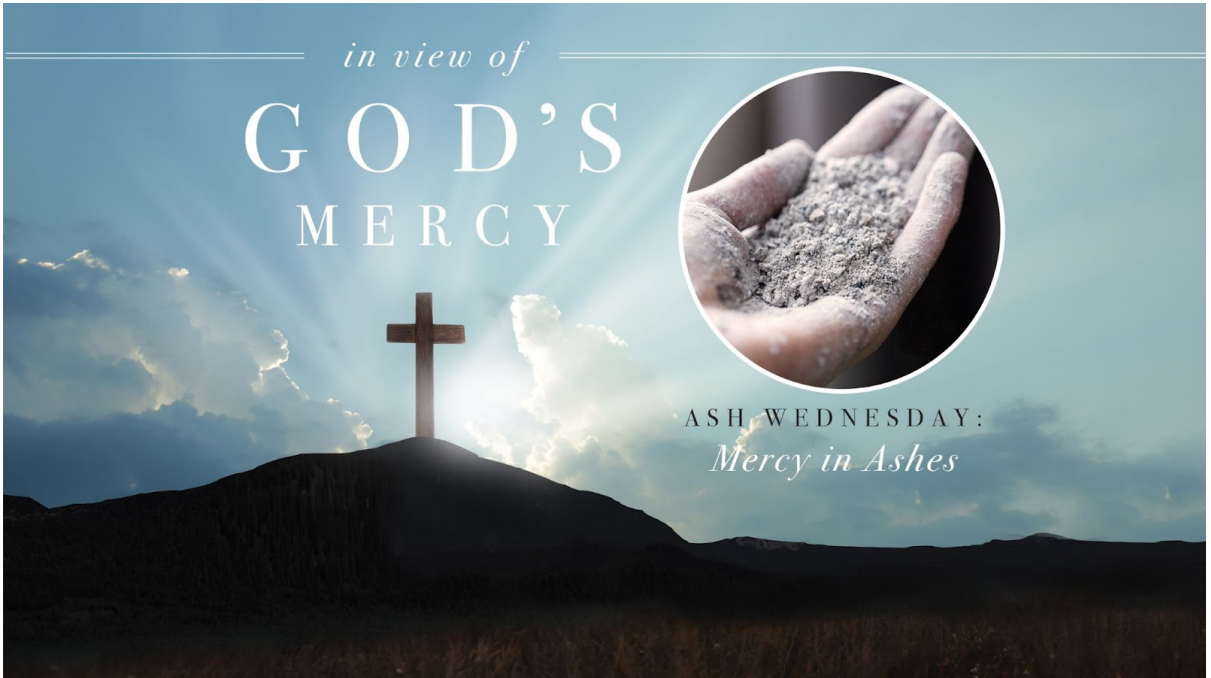


First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City (PCUSA)

14391 Minnieville Road Woodbridge, VA 22193

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Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022

7:00 PM

The Reverend Adam C. Bowling - Pastor

Adam.Bowling@fupcdc.org

828.448.8914

As we gather. . .

In this service for Ash Wednesday in our *In View of God's Mercy* series, we look at our lives through the lens of God's love toward us in the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus. In this service, we consider the ashes placed on our foreheads as a sign of our sins and remember that God lifts us from our ashes to new life in Christ.

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. - Joel 2:13

GATHERING SONG

In the Garden

Charles Austin Miles (CCLI#:62858)

Chorus

And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known

Verse 1

I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses

Verse 2

He speaks and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing

Verse 3

I'd stay in the garden with Him
Tho' the night around me be falling
But He bids me go thro' the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling

WELCOME

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

Return to the Lord your God.

Christ crucified, I come.

Behold his miracle of mercy.

Christ crucified, I come.

Receive his gift of grace.

Christ crucified, I come.

Abide in his steadfast love.

Christ crucified, I come.

Rest in his unfailing faithfulness.

Christ crucified, I come.

+ HYMN

By the Waters of Babylon

784

CALL TO CONFESSION *(Joel 2:12-13)*

“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” As our Lord summons us to return to him with repentant hearts, we confess our sins and sorrow over them.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we are unclean before you. We are marred and marked by the filth of sin. We have turned away from you by disobeying your commandments. We have rebelled against you by seeking our own way rather than following your will. Forgive us.

We cry out to you for mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, God’s mercy is greater.)

Almighty and merciful God, we approach your throne of grace today as sinners who require your cleansing.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Lord, have mercy.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Lord, have mercy.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Lord, have mercy.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Lord, have mercy.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

Lord, grant me your grace both to will and to do what pleases you.

All these things we pray in the name of Jesus, who cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

Amen.

KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy

551

Lord, have mercy;

Christ, have mercy;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy;

Christ, have mercy;

Lord, have mercy upon us

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(Joel 2:13)*

Hear the good news! God's Word declares that "he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

In the mercy of Almighty God, his Son Jesus was given to die for you to remove the stain of your sin. For Christ's sake God forgives you all your sin and renews a right spirit within you. His mercy endures forever because his love for you is steadfast.

Hearing this good news, know that we are forgiven, and be at peace.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Spirit of all Wisdom,

we desire to be reconciled to your will in our world.

Remove any obstacles before us

that would keep us from understanding your Word.

On this Lenten journey, guide our footsteps

that we might follow the path of Christ to the cross.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Joel 2:12-18 NRSV

¹² Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.

¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the Lord, your God?

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;

call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶ gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;

gather the children,
even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.

Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

¹⁸ Then the Lord became jealous for his land,
and had pity on his people.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 6:16-18 NRSV

¹⁶ And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Sign Us with Ashes (verses 1,4,6)

433

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

SILENT MEDITATION

Instructions: *If you haven't already picked up an individual prefilled communion cup as you entered the sanctuary, you are invited to come forward, by way of the center aisle, to receive the elements when an usher indicates. Gluten-free prefilled communion cups are located in the center of the tray. Please take the elements back to your seat by way of the outside aisles.*

Then, you may choose to go to Pastor Adam for the Imposition of Ashes on your forehead or the back of your hand. Ashes serve as a sign of human mortality and penitence and as a reminder that only by God's grace in Jesus Christ are we given eternal life. Ashes are imposed with the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). If you cannot come forward, a server will bring communion to you in your row.

Please hold the elements until all are served. *When directed by the Pastor, open the bread portion of the cup and partake. Then, when directed, carefully open the juice portion of the cup and partake. Please assist children and other members of your family who may have trouble opening the prefilled communion cups. Please hold onto your trash until you exit the sanctuary and dispose of your used cups in the provided waste receptacles.*

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise. . .

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(spoken)*

. . . 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Music during Communion *Eat This Bread* 527

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ **SENDING HYMN** *Jesus, Remember Me* 227

+ **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Please leave prayerfully and in silence.

+ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Please join us on Wednesday evenings through April 6th for

Wednesday Night Alive Dinner	6:00 PM
Young People’s Choir Rehearsal	6:25 PM
Lenten Worship <i>(Communion on all dates except 3-16-22)</i>	7:00 PM
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
Praise Team Rehearsal	8:30 PM

