

First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City (PCUSA)

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Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023

7:00 PM

The Reverend Adam C. Bowling - Pastor

Adam.Bowling@fupcdc.org

828.448.8914

PRELUDE**WELCOME**

- + **CALL TO WORSHIP** (inspired by Joel 2:13-15, Hosea 14:1, Psalm 145:8, Zechariah 1:3)
 Return to the Lord your God,
 for God is gracious.
 Confess to the Lord your God,
 for God is merciful.
 Repent to the Lord your God,
 for God is slow to anger.
 Praise the Lord your God,
 for God abounds in steadfast love.
 Worship the Lord your God.
 Together, let us worship God!

- + **OPENING HYMN** *Bless the Lord* 544

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, this is a hard time. The focus of Lent is on the pain and suffering of Jesus and our own need for penitence. It is a time of gathering darkness. But we would rather skip this part and go straight to Easter. We would rather ignore the suffering—in you and in the world—and avoid the hard work of true self-examination. Forgive us for wanting this to be bright and painless and easy, when we know that Jesus did not take the easy way, but chose the path of the Cross. Teach us the true meaning of penitence, so that we use this Lenten season to humbly seek a clean heart and a renewed spirit. Hear us now, as we continue to confess in the silence of our hearts. . .

(A Time of Silent Confession)

- 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

The truth is this: God's love and mercy are never-ending. God knows us in our inward being; God cleanses us from our sins and shortcomings, and restores to us the joy of salvation. 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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Joel 2:1-2,12-17 NRSV

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—
² a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains,
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them
 in ages to come.

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, abounding in steadfast love,
 and relenting from punishment.
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;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶ gather the people.
Consecrate 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?' "

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

SILENT MEDITATION

HYMN OF RESPONSE

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

433

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

Instructions: Please come by way of the center aisle when an usher indicates. All the bread is gluten free. Please partake of the elements when you receive them, and dispose of your cups in the baskets provided. Then, you may choose to go to Pastor Adam or Pastor Mike 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.

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

. . . 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.

Feb. 22, Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Wednesday Night Lenten Soup Dinner 6:00 PM
Lenten Worship with Communion 7:00 PM
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM
Praise Team Rehearsal 8:30 PM

April 2, 2023 Palm-Passion Sunday
One worship service - Communion 10 AM
Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45 AM
252 Kids Children's Ministry 10:15 AM

April 6, 2023 Maundy Thursday service 7:00 PM
April 7, 2023 Good Friday - Prayer Vigil 10 AM - 2:30 PM

April 9, 2023 - Easter Sunday Worship
Traditional Worship service 8:30 AM
252 Kids Children's Ministry 8:45 AM
Adult/Youth Bible Study 9:45 AM
252 Kids Club 9:45 AM
Contemporary Worship service 11:00 AM
252 Kids Children's Ministry 11:15 AM

