

First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City (PCUSA)

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Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

7:00 PM

The Reverend Adam C. Bowling - Pastor

Adam.Bowling@fupcdc.org

828.448.8914

PRELUDE*What Wondrous Love is This*

AMERICAN FOLK HYMN

Dr. Nadia Carmichael, Pianist

WELCOME**+ CALL TO WORSHIP**

The season of Lent calls us to journey along the edge,
to anticipate that final trip to Jerusalem.

**Lent calls us to the cutting edge,
when the wheat falls to the ground
and new life comes forth.**

Lent not only calls us to give up something,
but also invites us to participate in the mystery of God-with-us.

**By your grace, call us from grief into gladness,
despair into hope,
estrangement into right relations
with each other and with the earth.**

+ OPENING HYMN*Bless the Lord***544****CALL TO CONFESSION***Call to Confession by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org*

Ash Wednesday is a special day because it marks the start of something new. We are standing at the door of a journey into deeper faith, and God is inviting us in. Let us enter as children that we are and ask for forgiveness for the way we live.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, who does freely pardon all who repent and turn to Him, now fulfill in every contrite heart the promise of redeeming grace; forgiving all our sins, and cleansing us from an evil conscience; through the perfect sacrifice of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hear us now, as we continue to confess in the silence of our hearts. . .

(A Time of Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. 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 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10 NRSV

²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

⁶As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities,⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love,⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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)

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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

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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

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+ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Please leave prayerfully and in silence.

+ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*