



First Presbyterian Church

Lexington, North Carolina
Organized in 1827

A SERVICE OF SCRIPTURE, PRAYER, AND MEDITATION for ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17, 2021 - 7:00 PM

WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Near the Cross

R. Powell

Silent Prayer and Meditation: *Merciful God, your word is our way of truth and life. Create in us hearts that are clean and put your Holy Spirit within us, so that we may receive your grace and declare your praise forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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.

HYMN 85

What Wondrous Love Is This

- 1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!*

2. *When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down;
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.*
3. *To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing; While millions join the theme, I will sing!*
4. *And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on!
And through eternity, I'll sing on!*

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

PSALTER

Psalm 51:1-12, 17

*The music leader will sing this refrain through first, followed by everyone singing it.
Then we will sing it together as indicated throughout the psalm.*



¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. **(Refrain)**

⁴ Against you, 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. ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. ⁶ You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. **(Refrain)**

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. **(Refrain)**

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. ¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. **(Refrain)**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: Created in the image of the ONE who made us, mindful that we are capable of great goodness while also capable of doing immense harm, knowing our need to turn from all that separates us from God and from one another, let us confess that our choices have often wounded those we love, those we call enemies, our very selves and creation itself.

Silence for reflection.

Leader: O Life that surges through all things, Source of every living thing, we confess that we often lose touch with the unique worth of the life each of us has to live. We often fail to see the beauty in people and in the world. Let us awaken our hearts and minds, to the mystery and wonders of life so that God's refreshing Spirit may touch us again.

Silence for reflection.

Leader: In the presence of the Power that fills the universe with purpose and love, we confess that we often do not hear God's song. How fragile is our spirit of adventure. How weak is our desire for change and freedom. Let us awaken ourselves with a vision of wholeness, so that we may be fruitful people, serving God and one another with faithful abandon.

Silence for reflection.

Leader: In the midst of God, we confess with sadness that we have not yet lived into the fullness of our humanity. We have not done what we ought to have done. We have remained deaf to the cries of those who hurt. We have remained silent in the face of evil. We have allowed the shadow of death to hover over the innocent. We have failed to proclaim with power or conviction God's liberating Word.

Silence for reflection.

People: We repent; we turn toward You, O Holy One, trusting that your grace is sufficient as we forgive ourselves, our enemies, and one another so that love may abound.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE (responsive)

One: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ; and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ even prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation, the old is gone, the new has begun. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

All: **in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

WE HEAR THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Leader: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

ASH WEDNESDAY MEDITATION

I Confess

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Jo Dederer

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

HYMN 543

Abide with Me (vss. 1, 3, 5)

1. *Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

3. *I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.*

5. *Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies:
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.*

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

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.

POSTLUDE

Ah, Holy Jesus

Cruger/Ford

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Whether this is your first time worshipping with us or you have been with us for years, we welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ. We are so glad you have gathered with us online to give thanks to God and respond to Jesus' call to follow him. First Presbyterian Church of Lexington is a loving community in Christ where we *Call People to Faith, Develop them as Disciples, and Send them to Serve*. If you would like more information about our congregation, please speak with Pastor Nancy Dederer or one of our church leaders. Pastor Nancy can be reached at the church office (336/248-2140), by email at PastorNancy@fpclexnc.com, or by text or phone at 708/642-2742.

SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION

There will be a Service of Commemoration at the Lexington City Cemetery on N. State Street at the Slave Gravesite Sunday, February 21 from 2:00-2:30. There will be stories behind the Spirituals that evolved from the pain and suffering of slaves. Everyone is invited for this special remembrance during Black History Month.

ONLINE ONLY WORSHIP SERVICES

Until further notice, we will hold online-only worship services at 11 AM each Sunday. The live stream may be found at our YouTube channel: <http://tinyurl.com/fpclexncYouTube/live>.

Ministers The People
 Transitional Pastor Rev. Dr. Nancy Jo Dederer
 Interim Director of Christian Education/Formation Mrs. Karen Carrickhoff
 Director of Music Mrs. Shelley Jennings
 Organist Mrs. Connie Burleson
 Director of Contemporary Worship Mr. Jack Harman

THE SESSION

Class of 2021

Donna Bryan Jan Kiefer
 Sol Coltrane Margaret King
 Anna Gobble Robin Team
 Richard Goff Pat Ulmer
 Bill Keesler

Class of 2022

Meredith Andrews Jo Leonard
 Beverly Black Sammy McFarland
 Jim Beall Graham Phyllis McGee
 Jan Greer Bill McMurray
 Jimmy Holshouser



Shipping Address:
 15 W. 3rd Ave.
 Lexington NC 27292

Mailing Address:
 P.O. Box 586
 Lexington NC 27293

(336) 248-2140
 office@fpclexnc.com
 www.fpclexnc.com