

ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 22, 2023 - 6:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Abide With Me* arr. Whitsett

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In our moments of joy and in sorrow,

All: Abide with us, O God, abide with us.

One: In our moments of peace and our disquiet,

All: Abide with us, O God, abide with us.

One: In our moments of abundance and in our need

All: Abide with us, O God, abide with us.

*HYMN #366 *Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me*

*EVENING PRAYER

Lord of life, we begin a journey into the season of Lent toward Good Friday darkness and Resurrection morning light. When we convince ourselves that we are self-reliant, give us strength to know our weakness, and give us faith to trust your healing of our brokenness. When we convince ourselves that we know the way, stir us to follow where you lead—even to the ashes of this night. May your Word nourish us on this Lenten way that leads to the cross of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Joel 2:1-2; 12-17

MEDITATION *Rend* Rev. Jon Martin

ANTHEM *Merciful God* Alonso
Chancel Choir

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The Season of Lent begins with ashes, a sign of human mortality. When ashes are used to make the sign of the cross, we are making a bold claim about the power of God to stand with us in our mortality and redeem us. The forty days of Lent begin with humility, an awareness of our mortality, and repentance. We are mortal. We have gone astray.

*HYMN #384 *O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go*

*BENEDICTION

Anyone wishing to remain in the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service is welcomed to stay. Worshipers leaving the sanctuary are asked to depart quietly.

*Those who are able, please stand.

If you do not wish to keep your bulletin, please deposit it in the blue recycling bin as you leave.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church on Ash Wednesday

The Season of Lent begins tonight and will carry us into the silence and darkness of the Saturday before Easter morning. In its earliest meaning, lent is connected with the lengthening of spring daylight out of winter darkness. That return of life from winter death is our lenten journey of faith as well. We begin with ashes, a sign of mortality and repentance and are led toward the news of resurrection life.