FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m.



100 School Street Greer, SC 29651 ~ (864) 877-3612 ~ www.fpcgreer.org

-FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-

March 5, 2025 Ash Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

Welcome Reverend Ally Pexa

Prelude Forty Days and Forty Nights Callahan

*Call to Worship

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—a day of darkness and gloom,

a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Yet even now, says the Lord,

return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

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.

*Prayer of Adoration

*Hymn No. 442 Just as I Am, without One Plea WOODWORTH

Prayer for Illumination

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own that, hearing, we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Lesson Isaiah 58:1-12 Pew Bible, pg. 600

Sermon "Beloved Dust" Reverend Pexa

Anthem Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God Mueller

Chancel Choir

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation and uphold me, uphold me with thy free Spirit, thy free Spirit.

Then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners will be converted unto Thee.

Create in me a clean heart. O God.

Litany of Penitence

Reverend Will Shelburne

Leader: Let us pray.

People: Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

Leader: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

People: we confess to you, O God.

Leader: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,

People: we confess to you, O God.

Leader: Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

People: we confess to you, O God.

Leader: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

People: we confess to you, O God.

Leader: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is

People: we confess to you, O God.

Leader: Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

People: accept our repentance, O God.

Leader: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

People: accept our repentance, O God.

Leader: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us. **People: Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.** Leader: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, **People: that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Leader: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

People: bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection. Amen.

Hymn No. 576 Lord, Have Mercy SINGAPURA

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.

Imposition of Ashes

During the imposition of ashes, the congregation is invited to sing on the refrain of hymn 433.

Sign Us with Ashes

PHOENIX

Sign us with ashes, merciful God, children of dust, as to dust we return. Sign us with ashes, merciful God. Mark us and make us your own.

*Hymn No. 675 All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night TALLIS' CANON

*Benediction

Following the benediction, we invite you to leave in silence as the bell tolls forty times signifying the forty days of Lent.

^{*}Those who are able may stand

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and continues for forty days and six Sundays prior to Easter. It is a period of discipline but not necessarily of a negative character. As someone has said, "Lent consists in doing something, not in merely doing without something." The earliest record of a forty-day period of discipline was in the fourth century when Athanasius urged the people of Alexandria to fast. Ash Wednesday gets its name from the Old Testament tradition of donning "sackcloth and ashes" as symbols of repentance. In many churches, clergy take ashes from palm branches from the previous year and mark the forehead of worshipers while saying, "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return."

Prayers of Repentance from the Psalms: 6, 15, 25, 31, 32, 38, 39, 40, 41, 51, 60, 102, 130, and 143.

Senior Pastor: Reverend Will Shelburne
Associate Pastor: Reverend Ally Pexa
Director of Music: Lisa Dillard
Assistant Director of Music: Pam Turnage
Early Service Music Leader: Maria Kithcart
Director of Operations: Maggie Wentzky
Financial Administrator: Christi Yenser
Administrative Assistant: Lisa Johnson
Faith Formation Intern: Lizzie McCallum
Kitchen Manager: Emily Huff