

Ash Wednesday
First Presbyterian Church
February 14, 2024
Noon

OPENING MUSIC *Prélude in E♭ Minor* J.S. Bach

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We come to worship God
as the Lenten season begins,
aware of our frailty and our failings.

**All: We come seeking God's mercy,
aware of our mortality.**

One: Having received the waters of baptism,

All: we are marked now with ashes.

One: May we humble ourselves before God,
not with a yoke of burden

All: but a mantle of freedom in Jesus's name.

HYMN 440 *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *from Psalm 51*

Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love!

**Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great
compassion!**

**Wash me completely clean of my guilt;
purify me from my sin!**

Hide your face from my sins;

wipe away all my guilty deeds!

Create a clean heart for me, God;

put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!

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-continued-

**Please don't throw me out of your presence;
please don't take your holy spirit away from me.
Return the joy of your salvation to me
and sustain me with a willing spirit.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: According to God's steadfast love and God's abundant Mercy, God does not pass judgment on us-- the judgment we deserve. God creates in us clean hearts and gives a new and right spirit.

All: **In the grace of Jesus Christ, we return to God forgiven. Praise God for our salvation!**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HEBREW BIBLE READING Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

HOMILY

HYMN 343 *Restore in Us, O God*

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*You are invited to come forward
to receive the ashes*

One: Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.

All: **In life and in death,
I belong to God.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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