

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



Ash WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2022

GATHERING MUSIC

OUR DARKNESS IS NEVER DARKNESS
BRENDA LUGER, FLUTE; JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

TAIZE

GREETING

INTROIT

NIGHT HAS FALLEN
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR
Night has fallen
Refrain God, our Maker, guard us sleeping.
Darkness now has come,
Refrain
Keep us in your love
Refrain

JOHN BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

Even now, declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart.”

Roll up your sleeves.

Let down your guard.

Come in from the storm.

Make yourself at home.

Pull up to the table.

Release the tension in your jaw. Take a deep breath. Return to God with all your heart.

May it be so.

Let us pray -

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness, and strengthen us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy; in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN

THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind,
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17

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—
² a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains
a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.
Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³ 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.
¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink
offering for the LORD, your God? ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶ gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let
the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. ¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the
ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a
byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CHRIST IN ME ARISE

TREVOR THOMSON (1971 -)

MIKAYLA DODGE, SOPRANO; JUDITH BROWN, PIANO
Christ in me arise and dispel all the darkness.
Christ in me arise with your power and your strength.
Christ in me pour out your blessing and healing.
Christ in me arise and I shall rise with you.
Showing me all that I must see.
Onward to the kingdom, you are the way.
Arise in me and I shall rise with you.
Taking me where I must go.
Onward to the kingdom, you are the way.
Arise in me and I shall rise with you.
You know my heart and you know my ways,
You who formed me in my mother's womb.
I live and move in you, my whole being thrives in you.

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

6 "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven."² "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward."³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.⁵ "And whenever you pray, do not be like the

hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁶ “And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

SERMON

"HUMBLE BEGINNINGS"

REV. ALISON PETERS

HYMN#292

AS THE WIND SONG

“WAIRUA TAPU”

OFFERING

(We invite you to offer your ‘Humble Beginning’ on the purple slip found in your bulletin.

You may take it home or put it in the offering plate. We will lift up these small steps as a congregation throughout the Lenten Season.)

OFFERTORY RESPONSE #294

WITHIN OUR DARKEST NIGHT

TAIZE

Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire
that never dies away, never dies away. (Repeat)

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Holy God, I confess: I don't return to you fully. I share with you the pieces of my life that are convenient. I put on different hats in different rooms. I forget that I am called, invited, and loved with all that I am— including my mess, my beauty, my faith, and my doubt. Forgive me, and give me a heart that longs to return.

Many: Friend, God sees you. God hears you. God loves you. You are forgiven and claimed with all that you are. Rest in that good news.

One: Thanks be to God, amen.

Many: Holy God, we confess: we don't return to you fully. We share with you the pieces of our lives that are convenient. We put on different hats in different rooms. We forget that we are called, invited, and loved with all that we are—including our mess, our beauty, our faith, and our doubt. Forgive us, and give us hearts that long to return.

One: Friends, God sees you. God hears you. God loves you. You are forgiven and claimed with all that you are. Rest in that good news.

Many: Thanks be to God, amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE #294

WITHIN OUR DARKEST NIGHT

“DANS NOS OBSCURITES”

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(All are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes.

You may receive ashes on your forehead or your hand, please let the pastor know which you prefer.)

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO THE ASHES

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of our Savior,

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

HYMN #824

THERE IS A PLACE OF QUIET REST

"MC AFEF"

BLESSINGS AND CHARGE

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

BLESSING RESPONSE

THE PEACE OF THE EARTH
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR
The peace of the earth be with you,
The peace of the heavens too;
The peace of the rivers be with you,
The peace of the oceans too.
Deep peace falling over you.
God's peace growing in you.

JOHN BELL

We invite you to leave the Sanctuary in silence and make your way on this journey to Easter.

This Evening's Worship Leaders

Preacher..... Rev. Alison Peters
Pianist.....Judith Brown
Musicians.....Mikayla Dodge, Soprano; Brenda Luger, Flute; The Sanctuary Choir
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler

Holy Week Services

*Palm/Passion Sunday, April 2nd:

10:30 AM Churches on the Hill Gathering on Washington Street Library steps

11:00 AM Traditional Service at First Presbyterian

*Maundy Thursday, April 6th at 6:30 PM at First Presbyterian

*Good Friday Walking Stations of the Cross, April 7th at 12:00 PM

*Easter Egg Blessing Milestone on Saturday, April 8th at 10:00 AM at First Presbyterian Church - all families are invited to attend!

*Easter Sunday, April 9th:

Sunrise Service at Rocky Gap at 7:00 AM

Traditional Service in the Sanctuary of First Presbyterian at 11:00 AM

My Humble Beginning _____