



Esh Wednesday

First Presbyterian Church

Ash Wednesday Service

February 22, 2012

7:00 p.m.

A Time for Silent Prayer

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and 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.

The Gathering

PRELUDE "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Wm. M. Runyan
arr. Cindy Berry

INTROIT "Come Just As You Are"

GREETING Leader: May the Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

+CALL TO WORSHIP Elder Debra Embry

Leader: Blow the trumpet in Zion!
Sound the alarm on the holy mountain!

People: **Let all the inhabitants tremble,
for the day of the Lord is coming near.**

All: **Return to the Lord, your God, for the Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

+PRAYER OF THE EVENING

+HYMN "Sweet Hour of Prayer" Insert

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Elder Debra Embry

CHORAL ANTHEM "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" George Stebbins
Karen Thomasy and Steve Watson

FIRST READING	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	Elder Debra Embry
SECOND READING	2 Corinthians 5:20—6:10	Elder Debra Embry
GOSPEL READING	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	
MEDITATION	“Bless the Lord, My Soul”	Taizé
HOMILY	“Marked by Ashes” By Walter Brueggemann	Rev. Clint Schofield

INVITATION TO THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE
(Please take a moment for silent prayer)

THE READING OF PSALM 51:1-17 Elder Debra Embry

LITANY OF PENITENCE Elder Debra Embry

Leader: Almighty and eternal God, you despise nothing you have made, and you forgive the sin of all who are penitent. We confess to you that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone.

People: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength, neither have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. Have mercy on us.

Leader: We confess to you, O God, our self-indulgent ways and our neglect of other people; our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesties in daily life and work; our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us. We confess our indifference to injustice, our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, and our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors;

People: Have mercy on us, O God, for all our past unfaithfulness: for the ways we have refused your grace, been untrue to the mind of Christ, and grieved your Holy Spirit.

Leader: Forgive us the arrogance and pride by which we put ourselves above others; forgive us the timid fears and self-doubts by which we fail to offer in your service the gifts you have given us.

People: Accept our repentance, O God. Create in us new and contrite hearts that truly turning from our sin and acknowledging our brokenness, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness, freedom and true release, so we may live in newness of life following Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES
All who desire may come forward to receive the ashes in the sign of the cross.

INSTRUMENTAL “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” American folk hymn

PRAYER: **(unison) Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.**

HYMN

“Near to the Heart of God”

#527

The Table

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION MUSIC

“Just As I Am
“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”

Wm Bradbury
Robert Kreutz

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Sending

SONG OF PRAYER

“Stay with Us”

Taizé

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

DEPART IN SILENCE