

First
Presbyterian
Church

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5:30 p.m.



Phone 641-753-5929

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Welcome to worship on a somber day but also a new beginning as we embark on the Lenten journey of faith-growth leading to Easter.

- **Those who are able are invited to stand.**

PRELUDE

Moment of silence to prepare your hearts for worship

SONG OF DEVOTION (screen) (please remain seated)

#654 *Change My Heart, O God*

- **CALL TO WORSHIP** (Psalm 38:17-18, 21-22)

Leader: I am about to fall, and my pain is ever with me.

People: I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin.

Leader: Lord, do not forsake me; do not be far from me, my God.

People: Come quickly to help me, my Lord and my Savior.

- **INVOCATION**

Leader: Holy God, out of Your love and mercy You breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to be in relationship with You. Gracious God, You despise nothing that You created, and You forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that truly repenting of our sins, and acknowledging our brokenness, we may obtain from You, the God of Mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever, Amen.

- **HYMN of PENITENCE** (hymnal & screen)

#486 *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

SCRIPTURE OF PENITENCE: Psalm 51

OT pg. 889

EVENING PRAYERS

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, work, 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 in us,

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: For our waste and pollution of Your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after 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. Amen

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 9:9-13

NT pg. 1509

DEVOTION "Calling the Sinners"

Rev. Dr. Richard A. King

• **HYMN OF REFLECTION** (hymnal & screen)

#591 *Have Thine Own Way*

Minister: Today we begin a spiritual journey that will span forty days, from Ash Wednesday until Holy Saturday before Resurrection Sunday. In the early days of the Church, the season of Lent was a time of preparation for new converts as they readied their hearts to enter into Christian Baptism on Easter Sunday. Since these new members were to be received into a living community of Faith, the entire community was called to preparation. Also, this was the time when those who had been separated from the Church because of explicit sin would prepare to rejoin the community of Faith.

Today, the season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, self-examination, and penitence for all Christians as we prepare to celebrate Easter. Through this forty-day journey, we are reminded that we are totally unworthy before God, that we have nothing with which we can obtain salvation, and that our best efforts at being righteous fall far short. This season reminds us how much we need grace in our lives in order to live a transformed life that reflects God's love. We are called to renew our commitments and our faith as we continually acknowledge our need of God's transforming presence with us.

I invite you to the observance of a Holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now invite God to examine our hearts as we wait silently before Him.

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:1

NT pg. 1763

Those desiring forgiveness, healing and wholeness may come forward for the anointing of oil and the laying on of hands, during this time of worship and praise. You may kneel or sit at the prayer stations at the front of the sanctuary. Please make your request known to those who will pray over you. You may ask for prayers for another who is not here and be prayed over for their benefit. Please come forward now as we sing praises to our Merciful God.

PRAISE MUSIC: (screen)

O Come to the Altar
Mighty to Save
Who You Say I Am
Refiner's Fire
Lord, I Need You
Sanctuary

- **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**
- **ORGAN RESPONSE**
- **POSTLUDE**

