

March 2, 2022

Order of Worship  
Ash Wednesday

7:00pm

## Prelude

### • Call to Worship

We are so fragile.

**God is our hope in life and in death.**

We are terrified by shapeless threat.

**In Christ we are held, in life and in death.**

God chooses redemption and releases the bonds of fear.

**May God prepare our hearts and minds to be renewed in Christ.**

## Invocation

### • Opening Hymn – “Ashes” (please see insert)

**Scripture:** From Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (Liturgist, Paul Roark)

*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...*

*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 . . .*

*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 . . .*

*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?’” The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God.***

### • Prayer of Confession

We confess as one body before God alone.

We confess as persons known and beloved by God.

Let us pray together with our distinct voices, trusting the Spirit to intercede for us all.

**Holy God, how quickly we defend ourselves.**

**Our minds are full of excuses, justification, and denial.**

**The sense of threat distances us from one another and hardens our hearts.**

**Humble us. Hold us. Heal us.**

**Forgive us, O God, our creator and sustainer.**

**Our hope and restoration depend on you alone.**

Our defenses crumble in the presence of God’s holiness.

Our hearts are softened in the presence of Christ’s mercy.

Trust the good news of the gospel;

nothing in life or death, nor any power, can take from us the love of God.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

### • Congregational Response - #604 – “Lamb of God”

**Scripture:** From Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

*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. 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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

*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. 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 . . .*

*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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 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.*

*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God.***

### • Choir Anthem – “Ave Verum Corpus”, W.A. Mozart

**Imposition of Ashes** – To receive ashes, come forward by the center aisle. Then, return to your seat by the side aisles.

• **Benediction** (Based on Joel 2)

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. Amen.**

*Please leave in silence*

The (●) dot in the order of worship invites you to stand as you are able. Text in **bold** indicates unison reading.

**The Season of Lent** spans 40 weekdays beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and concluding the Saturday before Easter. Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil, the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord early on Easter Sunday. Today Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. Since Sunday celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as the Sundays in Lent. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling. Christians today use this period of time for introspection, self-examination, and repentance. This season of the year is equal only to the Season of Advent in importance in the Christian year, and is part of the second major grouping of Christian festivals and sacred time that includes Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost.

**Ash Wednesday**, the seventh Wednesday before Easter Sunday, is the first day of the **Season of Lent**. Its name comes from the ancient practice of placing ashes on worshippers' heads or foreheads as a sign of humility before God, a symbol of mourning and sorrow at the death that sin brings into the world. It not only prefigures the mourning at the death of Jesus, but also places the worshiper in a position to realize the consequences of sin. **Ash Wednesday** is a somber day of reflection on what needs to change in our lives if we are to be fully Christian.

~Dennis Bratcher  
Biblical and Theological Resources for Growing Christians

# Donelson Presbyterian Church

*Sharing the Love of Christ*



We warmly welcome all who have come to worship with us today. If you are a guest at Donelson Presbyterian Church, we encourage you to fill out a yellow visitor card which you will find in the pew.

## March 2, 2022

### *The Journey to Easter Begins*

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