

First Presbyterian Church of Rumson, NJ

*Ash Wednesday Service
February 22, 2023*



***Our Mission Statement** - "We, the First Presbyterian Church of Rumson, are called by God to be a spiritual and visible presence by living out our faith and sharing our gifts among God's people."*

Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023 : 7:30 P.M.

PRELUDE “*What Wondrous Love Is This*” Wondrous Love
~ Offered by *Suzanne Parmly* ~

OPENING UNISON PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent; create in us new and contrite hearts, so that when we turn to you and confess our sins we may receive your full and perfect forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

HYMN #166 “*Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days*” St. Flavian
~ Led by *Suzanne Parmly* ~

TIME OF CONFESSION

Leader: Loving God, we confess that we have not loved you with all our heart, and soul, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

People: Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.

Leader: We have been deaf to your call to serve.
We have been unfaithful, proud, and hypocritical.

People: Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.

Leader: We have been self-centered, and have taken advantage of others.

People: Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.

Leader: We have been envious of those more fortunate than ourselves.

People: Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.

Leader: We have loved worldly goods and comforts too much.
We have been dishonest in daily life and work.

People: **Lord have mercy.**
 Christ have mercy.

Leader: We have neglected prayer and worship, and have failed to commend the faith that is in us.

People: **Lord have mercy.**
 Christ have mercy.

Leader: We have been blind to human need and suffering, and indifferent to injustice and cruelty.

People: **Lord have mercy.**
 Christ have mercy.

Leader: We have thought uncharitably about others, and we have been prejudiced towards those who differ from us.

People: **Lord have mercy.**
 Christ have mercy.

Leader: We have wasted and polluted your creation, and lacked concern for those who come after us.

People: **Lord have mercy.**
 Christ have mercy.

Leader: Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness: we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.

KYRIE (The People Sing Responsively) Hymn #575

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us

People: **Lord, have mercy upon us**

Leader: Christ have mercy upon us

People: **Christ have mercy upon us**

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us

People: **Lord, have mercy upon us**

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 58:1-12 (pg. 841 OT)

SOLO “Ashes” Tom Conry

~ Offered by *Suzanne Parmly* ~

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (pg. 6 NT)

MEDITATION *“The Purpose Behind the Action”* Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

HYMN #422 *“Create in Me a Clean Heart”* Create In Me (Capers)
~ Led by *Suzanne Parmly* ~

THE IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

INVITATION

Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.
Repent and believe the Good News: God longs for you to be whole.

PRAYER

Loving God, you create us from the dust of the earth; may these ashes be for us a sign of our penitence and our mortality, and a reminder that only by the cross do we receive eternal life in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

(You are invited to come forward and receive ashes in the form of the cross upon your forehead. As you do, the pastor will say “Will you turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ?” and you are invited to respond, “I will”)

HYMN #450 *“Be Thou My Vision”* Slane
~ Led by *Suzanne Parmly* ~

DEPARTURE

POSTLUDE