



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
16 EAST FIFTH STREET
ROANOKE RAPIDS, NORTH CAROLINA

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Church Office Hours: Wednesday – Thursday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

SERVICE OF ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 26, 2020

TWELVE NOON

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE

(Please use the prelude as a time to quietly prepare for worship)

****CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us worship God.

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.

All: God's love endures forever.

One: God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though the waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

All: God's love endures forever.

****OPENING PRAYER**

One: Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made 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 all 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.

All: Amen.

****HYMN 418**

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

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.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

Rev. Joe Casteel

The Journey Begins with a Dirty Face

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**HYMN 444

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

LITANY OF PENITENCE

One: Let us pray.

All: 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, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

One: 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.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: 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.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

All: we confess to you, O God.

One: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,

All: we confess to you, O God.

One: Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

All: we confess to you, O God.

One: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

All: we confess to you, O God.

One: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

All: we confess to you, O God.

One: 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,

All: accept our repentance, O God.

One: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who

differ from us,

All: accept our repentance, O God.

One: For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

All: accept our repentance, O God.

One: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

All: Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

PRAYER

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

All: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

One: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

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

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

****HYMN 440** *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

****CHARGE**

****BLESSING**

One: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

****POSTLUDE**



Ashes are placed on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, in one of the most counter-cultural acts of our faith. It is done for two reasons: **a personal act of remembrance** and **as a sign or a witness for others**. The ashes come from the burnt Palms from last year's Passion Sunday celebration, which begins Holy Week.

What is the purpose of ashes on lent?

Tradition holds that Christians wear ashes on the first day of Lent in order to **mourn and acknowledge the suffering that Jesus endured**. As a gesture, it represents a willingness to repent for your sins and purify your soul in preparation for his resurrection.

LENTEN
LUNCHTIME
WORSHIP SERIES



March 4 HOST—Rosemary United Methodist Church;
 PREACHER—Rev. Joe Casteel

March 11 HOST—Rosemary Baptist Church;
 PREACHER—Rev. Joe Sandoval

March 18 HOST—First United Methodist Church
 PREACHER—Dr. Layne Wallace

March 25 HOST—First Presbyterian Church;
 PREACHER—Rev. Steve McElroy

Each service will be held on Wednesdays in March at
12:00 Noon followed by lunch.

Donations collected at FPC will be given to Bethlehem
Food Pantry.

THE SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Class of 2020

**Jimmy Bryant
Nancy Crowe
Mary Shelby
Wally Spragins**

Class of 2021

**Jack Kiger
Mike Knudson
Jim Small
Pet Spears**

Class of 2022

**Susan Barmer
Susan Gaylor
Gary Hackenburg
Nancy Sandoval**

WORLD MISSIONS

Our church supports the missionary work of Larry and Inge Sthreshley in the Congo, and the Rev. Donald Marsden, Frontier Fellowship.

OTHER SUNDAY OFFERINGS

Sunday School meets at 9:45 am for adults.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The morning CIRCLE meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:30 am in the Parlor, and an evening CIRCLE meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Loy Building. Tammy Spragins and Judith Clary are the Moderators of the Presbyterian Women.

PRESCHOOL

Our Preschool Program for two-year-olds meet Wednesday mornings from 9:00-11:00 am.

**Three-year-olds meet Tuesdays and Thursdays,
8:30-11:00 am or 12:00-2:30 pm.**

Twos and Threes are taught by Leesa Daughtry and Shannon Knight.

Four year old classes meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and are taught by Susan Gaylor and Becky Faison.

Classes are 8:30-11:30 am and 12:30-3:30 pm.

Contact the church office for further information.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN

Jim Allen and Jimmy Bryant are the Co-President's of the Presbyterian Men. Sunday morning breakfast meetings are held periodically.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Joe Sandoval, Pastor

Tammy Spragins, Administrative Assistant

Denise Hackenburg, Choir Director

Nick Stephenson, Organist/Choral Accompanist