

First Presbyterian Church of Grimes

www.grimesfirstpresbyterianchurch.org

email: grimespres@msn.com

Rev. Jessica Wietzke, Pastor



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 18, 2015 • 7:00 P.M.

We invite you to prepare for worship in silence.

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION

Leader: Where Christ walks,

People: we are asked to follow.

Leader: Where Christ stumbles,

People: we are asked to stop.

Leader: Where Christ cries,

People: we are asked to listen.

Leader: Where Christ suffers,

People: we will hurt.

Leader: When Christ dies,

People: we will bow our heads in sorrow.

Leader: When Christ rises again in glory,

People: we will share his endless joy.

Leader: There is no other way;

People: Jesus Christ is the way to forgiveness, reconciliation, and life.

*HYMN

"Great Is the Lord Our God"..... Hymn 335

INVITATION TO BEGIN THE JOURNEY OF LENT

Leader: After John's arrest, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, saying, "The time has come at last - God's reign has arrived. You must change your hearts and minds and believe the good news." (Mark 1: 14-15)

People: We stand at the beginning of Lent, ready to renew our faith and recommit ourselves to living for Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us come, before God, our Creator and Redeemer, confessing our sin.

All: We confess, Lord, how often we forget that we are yours. Far too often our busyness prevents us from worshipping you. Take our days; make them yours. We are yours, Lord, and we confess how often we forget to love you and to love one another. Take our hands; make them yours. Let them be filled with love, that we may serve you and serve one another. We are yours, Lord, and we confess that our feet don't always move with your spirit. We are slow to love justice and to walk humbly with you. Take our feet; make them yours. Amen.

410 S. Third St.

PO Box 289

Serving us in Worship this evening:

Colene Townsend, Organist

Nancy Mitchell, Pianist

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OT: Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17 (pages 846-847; large print - pages 1037-1038)
Psalm 51: 1-17 (pages 520-521; large print - pages 640-641)
NT: Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21 (pages 5-6; large print - pages 6-7)

MEDITATION

HYMN “Amazing Grace!”..... Hymn 502

***A CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP**

Leader: While he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers, Simon Peter and Andrew, casting their large net into the water. They were fisherman, so Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will teach you to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed. (Matthew 4: 18-20)

People: Jesus calls, and we follow. At least we try to follow!

Leader: The trouble is we so easily get side tracked; pursuing paths of our own choosing and not following where Jesus leads.

People: Lent is a time for deciding to follow Jesus, a time for returning to his path.

Leader: Therefore, I appeal to you brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12: 1-2)

People: In light of the promises of Jesus, let us put aside all that separates us from Christ. Let us allow the cleansing fire of the Holy Spirit purify our hearts. And let us pray for the love of Jesus to dawn on our hearts and draw us closer to the life he offers.

Leader: Jesus is calling us to follow him.

People: With God’s help, we will be Christ’s faithful disciples, obeying his word and showing forth his love.

IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

You are invited to come forward to receive the ashes.

***CLOSING HYMN** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”..... Hymn 213

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

All: Having been here we’ve met with the Lord. As we go from here, may we go with the Lord. May God’s Spirit and Word linger in our hearts and guide us in the coming days. And may the grace, love, and peace of God rest upon us all. Amen.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the 40 days that precedes Holy Week and Easter. In Scripture, the number 40 relates to the time spent in the ark by Noah, the period of time spent by Israel seeking the Promised Land after the exodus from Egypt, and the amount of time Jesus was in the wilderness after his baptism and prior to beginning his ministry. For us, the season of Lent is an invitation to 40 days of renewal, 40 days to prepare ourselves to take in the Good News of Easter through deeper disciplines of prayer, study and worship. Ashes are the traditional sign of sorrow and repentance and are also a sign of mortality. But we remember that God’s love is triumphant over sin and death, and God remains with us. In Christ, our mortality is overcome.
Thanks be to God!

Meditation to take home tonight:

How can you make the next forty days a time of true conversion that lasts well beyond Easter?