

February 14, 2024

Order of Worship  
Ash Wednesday

6:45pm

## Prelude

### • Call to Worship

We come to God with full and prayerful hearts.

**We yearn to turn to God.**

We mark on our foreheads our need for grace,

**giving thanks and praise for mercy.**

**Hear our call to be in your will, O God.**

### • Invocation

**Scripture Reading** (From Psalm 51), Liturgist ~ Laura Piper

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;*

*according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.*

*Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.*

*For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.*

*Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,*

*so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment . . .*

*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

*Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.*

*Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.*

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.*

*Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.*

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.*

*Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.*

*Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation,*

*and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.*

*O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.*

*For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.*

*The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not*

*despise. The Word of the Lord; **thanks be to God.***

**Choir Anthem:** From Dust We Came

**Scripture Reading:** From Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

*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—  
a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!*

*Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never  
been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.*

*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.*

*Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God?*

*Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people.*

*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.*

*Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.*

*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:

Let us approach God with our confessions, trusting that even before we speak,  
God knows us and loves us.

**God of glory and righteousness,**

**we confess that we do not live as citizens of your kingdom.**

**We give allegiance to earthly thrones. We ignore the neediest in our midst.**

**We discount our own worth. We forsake the justice due your kingdom.**

**Take from us the spirit of isolation, greed, lust for power, and false pride.**

**Give us instead the spirit of interdependence, generosity, humility, and love. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, you are blessed by God to inherit the kingdom  
prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, you are refashioned every day to live according to God’s  
reign, in the freedom of Christ Jesus. Friends, know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

### • Congregational Response - #604 Lamb of God

**Scripture Reading:** 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.**

- **Hymn** - #470 - There Is a Longing In Our Hearts

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

- **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.**

**Postlude**

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

# Donelson Presbyterian Church

*Sharing the Love of Christ*



We warmly welcome all who have come to worship with us tonight. 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.

**February 14, 2024**  
*Beginning the Lenten Journey*

2305 Lebanon Pike  
Nashville, TN 37214  
Phone 615-883-3248

[www.donelsonpres.org](http://www.donelsonpres.org)  
[donelsonchurch@bellsouth.net](mailto:donelsonchurch@bellsouth.net)

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