

Prayer

Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts. All that we do and pray is in the name of Jesus, for in his cross you proclaim your love forever and ever. Amen.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE

*Hymn: "Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

GTG # 417

*Charge and Blessing

Postlude: "The Old Rugged Cross" George Bennard/arr. Dan Forrest

This service is adapted from *Book of Common Worship*, PCUSA, WJK, 1993.

Copyright information for service music:

"Abide With Me", music tune EVENTIDE William H. Monk, arr. Mary McDonald, copyright © 2022 CandelaWorks Music (ASCAP), div. of Jubilate Music Group, LLC, Brentwood, TN; "Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us", text traditional liturgical text, public domain; music (KYRIE ELEISON) J. Christopher Pardini., copyright © 2011, Birmamwood Publications (div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc., St. Louis, MO)

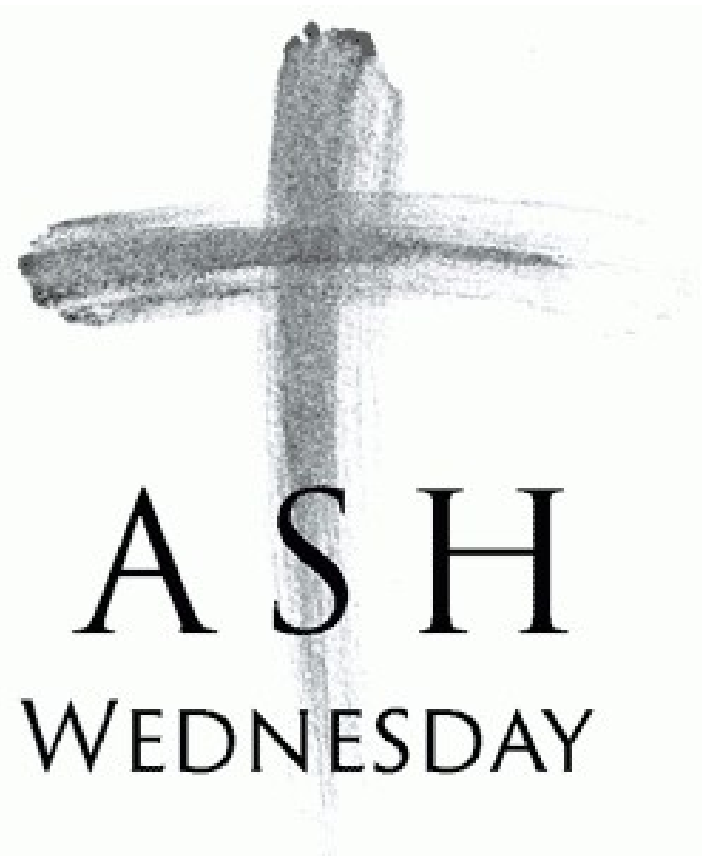
Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under OneLicense.net A-701800, all rights reserved.

"The Old Rugged Cross", music George Bennard, arr. Dan Forrest from *In Remembrance*, copyright © 2009, SoundForth, div. of The Lorenz Corporation.

CCS WORSHIPcast License #15043

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days", text Claudia F. I. Hernaman, music Day's *Psalter*; "The Glory of These Forty Days", text by Gregory the Great, trans. Maurice F. Bell, music *Klug's Geistliche Lieder*, harm. J.S. Bach; "Lord Jesus, Think on Me", text Synesius of Cyrene, music Daman's *Psalms*.

Selections held in public domain



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWTON, NORTH CAROLINA**

FEBRUARY 22, 2023

7:00 p.m.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude: "Abide With Me" William H. Monk/arr. Mary McDonald

*Call to Worship

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

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

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

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

Let us worship God!

*Hymn: "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" GTG # 166

*Prayer of Confession

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

*Confession Response:

"Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us" GTG # 575

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Assurance of Pardon

WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

First Lesson: Isaiah 58:1-12

p. 688

Second Lesson: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

p. 5 & 6

Meditation

*Hymn: "The Glory of These Forty Days"

GTG #165

WE ARE RENEWED IN GRACE

Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

Litany of Confession

Have mercy on me O God in your great kindness:
in the fullness of your mercy blot out my offences.
Wash away all my guilt: and cleanse me from my sin.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

For I acknowledge my faults: and my sin is always before me.
Against you only have I sinned and done evil in your sight.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Create in me a clean heart O God:
and renew a right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence:
do not take your holy spirit from me.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Give me the joy of your help again:
and strengthen me with a willing spirit.
O Lord open my lips: and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Imposition of Ashes

All may come forward who wish to receive the imposition of ashes. A sign of the cross is placed on your forehead or hand. The ashes are from the palm branches used at our Palm Sunday service last year.