

THE CHURCH GATHERS

Pre-Service Music

Prélude lent

Alphonse Schmitt

Call to Worship

adapted from Feasting on the Word

We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins, aware of our frailty and our failings.

We come seeking God's mercy, acknowledging our mortality.

Having received the waters of baptism, we come to be marked now with ashes.

May we humble ourselves before God not with a yoke of burden but a mantle of freedom in Jesus' name.

Hymn

Would I Have Answered When You Called

FWS #2027

Prayer of Confession

adapted from Feasting on the Word

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.

Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

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. Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then you will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Words of Assurance

According to God's steadfast love, according to God's abundant mercy, God does not pass judgment on us, the judgment we deserve.

God creates in us clean hearts and gives a new and right spirit. In the grace of Jesus Christ, we return to God forgiven.

Praise God for our salvation!

TO HEAR THE WORD AND REFLECT

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 51

Music Ministry

Create in Me a Clean Heart

John Leavitt

Second Scripture Reading

Psalms 58:6-7

Meditation

Rev. Tayler Necochea

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Hymn

Lead Me, Lord

UMH #473

Imposition of Ashes

Prayer to Accept our Ashes

adapted from Cole Arthur Riley

Let us join together in this communal prayer as we accept the ashes on our foreheads and hands:

God of the Dust,

We praise you for being a Maker who is capable of dreaming up glory from dirt. As we journey through this Lenten season, help us to remember our origin story and find ourselves deeply grounded in bodies made from the lowest part of creation, yet alive with gloried breath from the divine.

We confess that we do not always apprehend the humility of our own beginnings. Let the memory of it not serve to demean our dignity but affirm it, as we come to see ourselves as bearing your image and breath.

And as we remember our genesis, let us hold in tenderness the reality of our own mortality, that we would be people prepared to contend with the tragedy of death and decay. Let this be a season where we become uniquely attuned to the agonies of sin, trauma, and alienation— allowing our interior burdens to be held in a holy lament. Grant us the courage to tell the truth of all that haunts us so that we might be purged of every lie that leads us into bondage. And as we face the truths of who we are, let our own frailties guide us deeper still into the hope of You, that we would believe that You who bore life from dust, can do so once again.

Glory to the One who harnesses beauty from ash. We look to you. Amen

Offertory

Hymn

Doxology

UMH #95

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to offer to you all that we have and all that we are

that we may praise you, not with our words only, but with our whole lives, turning the duties, the sorrows, and the joys of all our days into a living sacrifice to you; through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn

Change My Heart

FWS #2152

AND SCATTERS TO BE IN THE WORLD

Leave in silence

WELCOME TO Princeton United Methodist Church

We are a diverse faith community,
engaged in enlivening spiritually thirsty people
to joyfully respond to God's love
and grow as disciples of Christ,
so that together we may experience the fullness of life.

SHARING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Liturgists - Sandra Richardson, William Ponder, David Dreibelbis
Musicians - Chancel Choir, Julia Hanna
Ushers - Ida Cahill, Iona Harding

SCAN TO
CONNECT WITH US
OR TEXT 'PUMC' TO
609-542-2192



SCAN TO GIVE
OR TEXT YOUR
GIFT AMOUNT TO
609-554-1128

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN DAILY DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

PUMC pastors, staff, and lay leaders have created a lenten devotional book that is now available on amazon, kindle, PDF copy, or in the office. Please scan the QR code for amazon copies, or reach out to tyler@princetonumc.org for more info on how to get ahold of one.



STONEBRIDGE COMMUNION

You are invited to the Stonebridge Methodists communion service on March 9, 2 p.m. at Stonebridge, 100 Hollinshead Spring Rd, Skillman, NJ in the Club Room. Rev. Jenny Smith Walz will preside. All are welcome! Contact: postberg1@aol.com

OPENING OUR DOORS ON LENTEN THURSDAYS

Every Thursday during Lent, the church will be open for meditation and prayer, with the opportunity to take a self guided tour. We need volunteers to make this a reality! If you can volunteer to help welcome visitors, please email Tyler in the office at tyler@princetonumc.org

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CHURCH CALENDAR

www.princetonumc.org/calendar



MARCH 5, 2023

ASH WEDNESDAY



Blessing the Dust | by Jan Richardson

 **PRINCETON**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH