



First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

February 22, 2023 + 7:00 p.m.



Gathering Music



We Approach God In Worship



***Call to Worship** *from John 3 and Psalm 46*

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

God's love endures forever.

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.

God's love endures forever.

***Opening Hymn #324**

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

***Evening Prayer**

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon *from Psalm 51*

King David sinned against the Lord, committing adultery and murder. When he was confronted by the prophet Nathan, the king repented of his sins. In the Spirit-inspired words of a psalm, David expressed his sorrow over his sins and his trust in God's mercy and God, in his grace, forgave the repentant king. As we begin our Lenten journey on this Ash Wednesday, we repent of our sins, using the words of David's psalm:

“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 only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight ... Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.”

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.” Amen.

a time of silence is kept

Hear and believe this very good news:
God has showered us with grace.
On the cross, Jesus took onto himself
the punishment that belonged to us,
and has set us free for new life.
Thanks be to God!



We Listen for God’s Word



Prayer for Illumination

The First Lesson

2 Samuel 12:1-13

Anthem

“How Great His Love”

Ruth Elaine Schram

How great His love, how great His mercy to choose the path
that leads to Calvary.

To drink the cup of pain and sorrow, how great His love for me.

How great the love of God the Father, to choose a plan that
sends His only Son to live with us, to walk among us.

How great His love for us.

How great His love, that He should call us his children.

That He should give us Jesus.

How great His love for us.

How great His love, how generous His compassion, to meet our
need before we knew to ask.

To call our names, to beckon us to follow.

How great His love for us.

The Second Scripture Lesson

Luke 15:8-10

Homily

Grace For the Humble

***Hymn #563**

“Open My Eyes That I May See”



We Respond To God's Word



Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent

Imposition of Ashes

Adagietto from Symphony No. 5

Mahler

The Prayers

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Almighty God, we praise you for the grace displayed in the life of your servant King David. Through David's descendant and greater Son, Jesus Christ our King, you fulfilled your promise to bring us life and salvation.

Gracious Lord,

Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Almighty God, we pray that you will, by the power of your Spirit, lead us to true repentance. As we follow our Lord on his path to the cross, help us to see that it was our sins for which Jesus suffered and died. Gracious Lord,

Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Almighty God, during Lent and beyond this holy season, we pray that, with the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, we might bear fruit in keeping with repentance. We want to glorify you each day in our thoughts, words and actions.

Gracious Lord,

Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Almighty God, we pray that you would bring help and comfort to those who are ill and suffering in body, mind or spirit. According to your gracious will, grant comfort and healing to them. Help them to find hope and joy in the promises of your Word. Gracious Lord,

Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Almighty God, by the power of your Spirit, help us to be bold in our witness for our Savior. We pray that through our acts of love and service and through our words of witness that, by your grace, others will come to know and worship Jesus as Lord and Savior. Gracious Lord,
Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Hear us now as we pray to you in the name of Jesus Christ, as he taught us:

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and
the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn**

“Amazing Grace”

**Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found; was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.**

**The Lord has promised good to me; His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come.
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me
home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

***Blessing**

***Passing The Peace of Christ**

A Word About the Sanctuary Decorations from Pastor Andrew

Visuals are an important part of our faith. Wherever you look in the sanctuary you will see symbols that help us to live into the teachings of our faith. Whether it is the mosaic cross above the chancel or the baptismal font at center aisle, each conveys a message to accentuate our experience in worship. The same can be said of such architectural details of the church like the steeple, pointing us always to God above the fray of everyday life.

As I prayed about our observance of Lent, I wanted to represent both the starkness and richness of this season. The season is patterned off of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, represented in our worship space by gnarly branches and jagged edges. This season is one of penitence and self-examination, represented by the deep tones of purple. Lent is a journey, from the mountain of Transfiguration to the cross, represented on the chancel by the sea of purple and willows, reminiscent of the Israel's journey to the Promised Land through the Red Sea. And at the center is the cross of Christ, high and lifted up for our adoration and praise. As we approach Holy Week and walk the steps of Jesus' death and resurrection, the cross will transform just as Jesus did during those three days in the tomb.

I thank the worship committee for allowing me to bring these ideas to life, and to Katie, Stacey, and many others who helped make it happen!

AMAZING *grace*



ASH WEDNESDAY
David



WEEK ONE
Isaiah of Babylon



WEEK TWO
The Prodigal Son



WEEK THREE
The Blind Man



WEEK FOUR
The Woman at the Well



WEEK FIVE
Paul

LENT