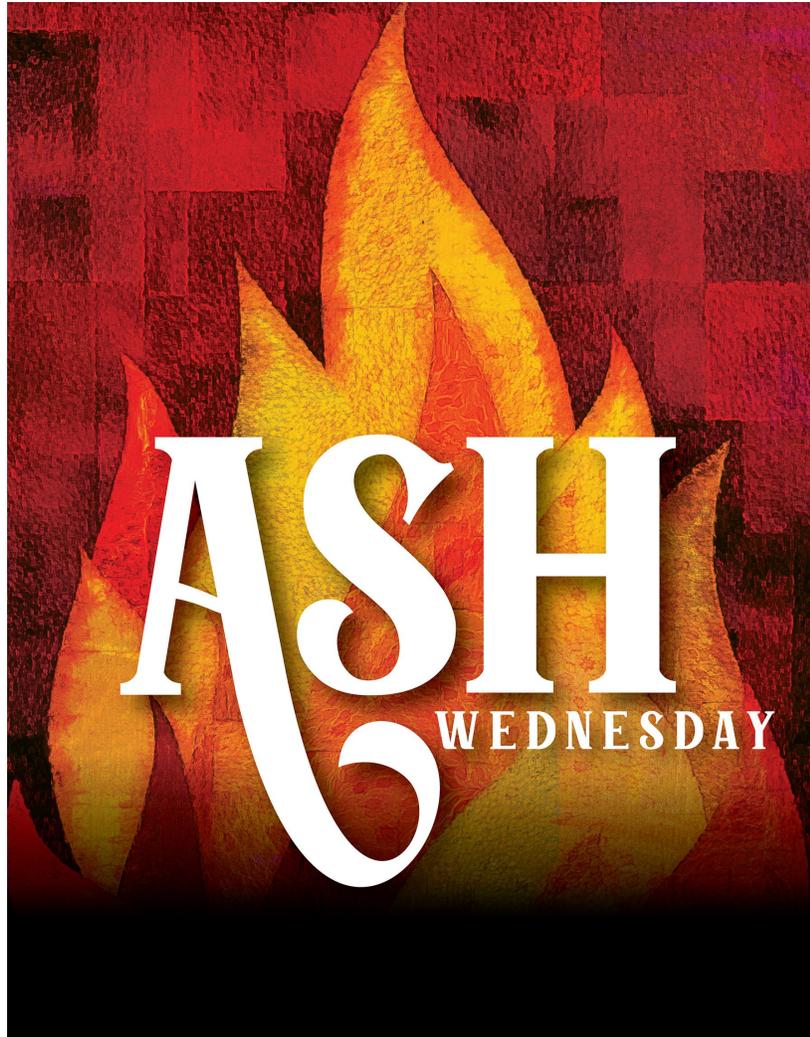


# First Presbyterian Church



210 S. Wayne Street Milledgeville, GA 31061  
(478) 452-9394, [milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com](mailto:milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com)  
[fpcmilledgeville.org](http://fpcmilledgeville.org)

Inspired by Scripture, guided by Spirit, and nourished by our life together, we seek to be a reflection of God's radical grace. We believe God's love models a world without walls; therefore, we provide a safe and affirming home where you are welcomed exactly as you are. No matter the color or your skin, who you love, your gender, or the unique ways your mind and body work, you have a place here. Following the way of Jesus and empowering one another to grow in faith, we commit to feeding the hungry, caring for those in need, and working for justice and peace in our community and the world—living out our confidence in the promises of God.

February 18, 2026  
Ash Wednesday

PRELUDE

*I Need Thee Every Hour*

arr. Emma Lou Diemer

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Leader: The spirit of God leads us into this holy season.

**Congregation: We come to find our strength in God's grace alone.**

**GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Isaiah 58)**

Leader: Shout it aloud, do not hold back! Lift up your voices like a trumpet!

**People: We come seeking the Holy One, desiring to know the ways of God.**

Leader: Is this not the fast that God chooses: to loose the bonds of injustice and to let the oppressed go free?

**People: We come to share our bread with the hungry and to bring the homeless into our house.**

Leader: Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly.

**People: Come, let us worship God, the repairer of the breach and the restorer of streets to live in.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Holy God, you have called us from the dust to be a people of the Word. As we enter these forty days, grant us the courage to turn toward what is holy.**

**Strengthen us for the work of justice, the habit of kindness, and the practice of stillness. May the ashes we receive today remind us of our belonging to you, and may the Word we hear today sustain us in the wilderness. Lead us, O God, toward the light of Easter. Amen.**

\*HYMN 415

*Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**ANTHEM**

*Create a Pure Heart in Me*

Susan Matsui

*Create a pure heart in me, O Lord.  
Grant me a new and steadfast spirit.  
Do not drive me away from thy presence,  
or take thy Spirit from me.*

*Revive in me the joy of deliverance,  
Grant me a steady soul to uphold me.  
Open thou my lips, everlasting Lord,  
that my mouth may sing thy praises.*

*Thou takest no delight in sacrifice,  
nor hast thou any wish for whole offering.  
My sacrifice, Lord, is a broken soul,  
my offering, a contrite heart.*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT: Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

OT 846

Isaiah 58:1–12

OT 688

PSALTER

Psalm 51:1–17

OT 520

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

NT 5-6

## SERMON

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

## INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### LITANY OF CONFESSION

Leader: Holy God, we admit that we often prefer a fast that does not cost us anything.

**People: We choose rituals that soothe us rather than truth that transforms us.**

Leader: We confess that we have ignored the bonds of injustice when they did not bind our own hands.

**People: We have turned away from the hungry and closed our doors to the stranger.**

Leader: We have sought the light of your presence while walking in the shadows of our own selfishness.

**People: Forgive us, O God. Rend our hearts and not our garments. Remove the darkness from our minds and bow our hearts to your will.**

*(A moment of silent confession)*

\*Hymn 433

*Sign Us with Ashes*

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

### LITANY OF TAKING ON

Leader: Having been marked by the dust, we now breathe in the Spirit. We do not just leave things behind; we take up the work of the Kingdom.

**People: We take on the discipline of prayer, making space in our days for Your quiet presence.**

Leader: Having been forgiven, we now offer grace to ourselves and to our neighbors.

**People: We take on the discipline of reconciliation, seeking to mend what is broken in our families and our community.**

Leader: Having seen the face of Christ in the needy, we refuse to look away from the suffering of the world.

**People: We take on the discipline of justice, working to loose the bonds of oppression wherever we find them.**

Leader: Having acknowledged our mortality, we choose to live more intentionally with the time we are given.

**People: We take on the discipline of simplicity, letting go of the clutter of greed to make room for the needs of others.**

Leader: Having heard the Word, we commit to being a people of the Way.

**People: We take on the discipline of service, sharing our bread, our homes, and our hearts in the name of Jesus Christ.**

Leader: By the power of the Spirit, let us begin our journey.

**All: Amen.**

## THE OFFERING



You may present your offering at the front of the sanctuary, or if you prefer to contribute electronically, you can do so using the PayPal QR code in your bulletin or visit our website at [fpcmilledgeville.org](http://fpcmilledgeville.org).



### OFFERTORY

*Forty Days and Forty Nights*

arr. Noel Rawsthorne

### \*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, we dedicate these gifts and our very lives to your service. May our giving be an act of worship that breaks the bonds of injustice and shares your bread with the world. Amen.

### BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

#### \*HYMN 423

*Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God*

#### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

(Depart in silence)

*\*At these times the congregation is invited to rise in body or in spirit.*

### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor, Rev. Mari Turner (in office every Wednesday)  
Children & Youth, vacant  
Admin. Asst., Jessica McQuain  
Music Director, Dr. Jennifer Flory, [jennifer.flory@gcsu.edu](mailto:jennifer.flory@gcsu.edu)  
Organist, Kate Phillips  
Treasurer, Joel Burns  
Church Phone (478)452-9394, Cell (478) 443-5203  
Email: [milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com](mailto:milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com)

### OFFICE HOURS

9am ~ 1pm Mon-Thur.



**MORE LIGHT**  
PRESBYTERIANS

CONFESSION

# 433

## Sign Us with Ashes

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm) (Am7)  
*Refrain* B $\flat$  F Gm Dm Cm7  
*All*

Sign us with ash - es, mer - ci - ful God, chil - dren of

(G) (Am7) (D) (G) (D)  
 B $\flat$  Cm7 F B $\flat$  F

dust, as to dust we re - turn. Sign us with ash - es,

(Em) (Bm) (Am7) (D7) (Gsus) (G)  
 Gm Dm Cm7 F7 B $\flat$  sus B $\flat$  *Fine*

mer - ci - ful God. Mark us and make us your own.

(D) (G) (C)  
 F B $\flat$  E $\flat$   
*Leader or All*

1	Sure - ly,	you a - lone	can save us.	You pay our
2	Sure - ly,	you a - lone	up - hold us.	You give us
3	Sure - ly,	you a - lone	can heal us.	Yours is the
4	Sure - ly,	you a - lone	can free us.	You break the
5	Sure - ly,	you a - lone	re - fine us.	You give us
6	Sure - ly,	you a - lone	re - deem us.	You fill our

(G) (D) (G) (D)  
 B $\flat$  F B $\flat$  F

price	with	pre - cious	blood.	Reach - ing	through your
strength	for	all	our needs.	Shield - ing	with a
will	to	make	us whole.	Sooth - ing	with a
bonds	of	guilt	and sin.	Brac - ing,	till we
grace	for	lives	made new,	forg - ing,	through your
dust	with	ho - ly	breath.	Burst - ing	from the

# 433 Sign Us with Ashes

(G) (C) (G) (Dsus) (D)  
 B $\flat$  E $\flat$  B $\flat$  Fsus F  
*to Refrain*

great com - pas - sion, you lift up your peo - ple with love.  
 fa - ther's fa - vor, you bless us with par - don and peace.  
 moth - er's kind - ness, the con - trite of heart, you con - sole.  
 walk up - right - ly, you bol - ster our hope once a - gain.  
 fire and ra - diance, a sac - ri - fice wor - thy for you.  
 grave in glo - ry, you rise from the ash - es of death!

## CONFESSION

# 415 Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

*All or Leader*

1 Come, ye sin - ners, poor and need - y, weak and wound - ed,  
 2 Come, ye thirst - y, come, and wel - come; God's free boun - ty  
 3 Come, ye wea - ry, heav - y lad - en, lost and ru - ined  
 4 Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness

The differing voices of this text indicate that its parts were not created together. The stanzas are cast in the voice of a preacher or exhorter, but the refrain (added later) takes the voice of a penitent heeding that call in language like that of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:18).

CONFESSION

sick and sore; Je - sus read - y stands to save you,  
 glo - ri - fy, true be - lief and true re - pen - tance,  
 by the fall; if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter,  
 fond - ly dream; all the fit - ness he re - quir - eth

*Refrain*  
*All*

full of pit - y, love, and power.  
 ev - ery grace that brings you nigh. I will a - rise and  
 you will nev - er come at all.  
 is to feel your need of him.

go to Je - sus; he will em - brace me in his arms. In the

arms of my dear Sav - ior, O there are ten thou - sand charms.

# Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God 423

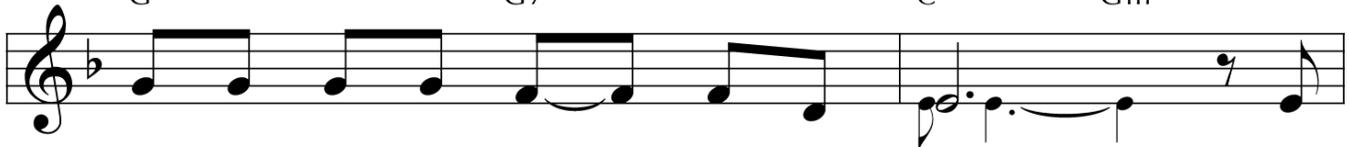
(Psalm 51)

Capo 5: (F)(Gsus)(G) (C) (Em7) (F) (A7)  
 B<sup>b</sup> Csus C F Am7 B<sup>b</sup> D7



1 Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God; cre -  
 2 ♯ Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence; ♯  
 3 Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion; re -

(D) (D7) (G) (Dm)  
 G G7 C Gm



ate in me a clean heart, O God; cre -  
 cast me not a - way from your pres - ence; ♯  
 store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion; re -

(E) (E7) (Am) (E7) (Am)  
 A A7 Dm A7 Dm



ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
 cast me not a - way from your pres - ence ♯ and  
 store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -

(Dm7) (Em) (G) (C) [(Em)]  
 Gm7 Am C F [Am]



new a right spir - it with - in me.  
 take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.  
 hold me with your free Spir - it.