

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO
Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 5:30pm**

PRESERVICE MUSIC

*“Forty Days and Forty Nights”
“Ah, Holy Jesus”
“O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done”
“Freely, Freely”
“What Wondrous Love Is This”
“I Surrender All”*

--GATHERING--

CHIMES

PRELUDE

“Just As I Am” (Colvin)

**GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND INVITATION TO
LENTEN DISCIPLINE**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Joel 2:1-2, 12-14

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, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment.

**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?**

***HYMN #196**

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor” (Teschner)

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Rev. Rose McCurdy: Creator God, you fashioned us out of dust, breathing your Spirit into us, so we might sing your praise.

Congregation: But we have denounced your gift of life in order to be our own gods, clinging to death-dealing idols of our own making.

Bob Entrop: We have denied our creaturely status, seeking to lord it over those we label "less-than."

Congregation: We squelch all who are different through ignoring, belittling, murdering, and bombing.

Bob Entrop: We believe survival-of-the-fittest lies, discounting the weak, and profiting by others' pain.

Rev. Rose McCurdy: Not trusting in your providence, we stop our ears to cries of those in need because we're afraid we won't have enough.

Congregation: We have been unfaithful stewards, O Lord.

Bob Entrop: We live in a state of sin among a people of sin.

Congregation: Save for your grace, we perish.

Bob Entrop: Remember our making, Creator God; remember we are dust.

All: Have mercy on us according to your loving kindness. Breathe new life into us once more, so we might be the people you created us to be. Restore unto us the joy of your salvation that we might do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Ezekiel 36:25-27

Hear the promise of God: “I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you will be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances.” Friends, the promises of God are true:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven. Live now as new people, free to love God and neighbor.

--WORD--

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 103

SERMON

“Baptized Dust”

Reverend Rose McCurdy

--RENEWAL--

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

--SENDING--

*HYMN #826

“Lift High the Cross” (Nicholson)

*BENEDICTION AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE

“Abide with Me”