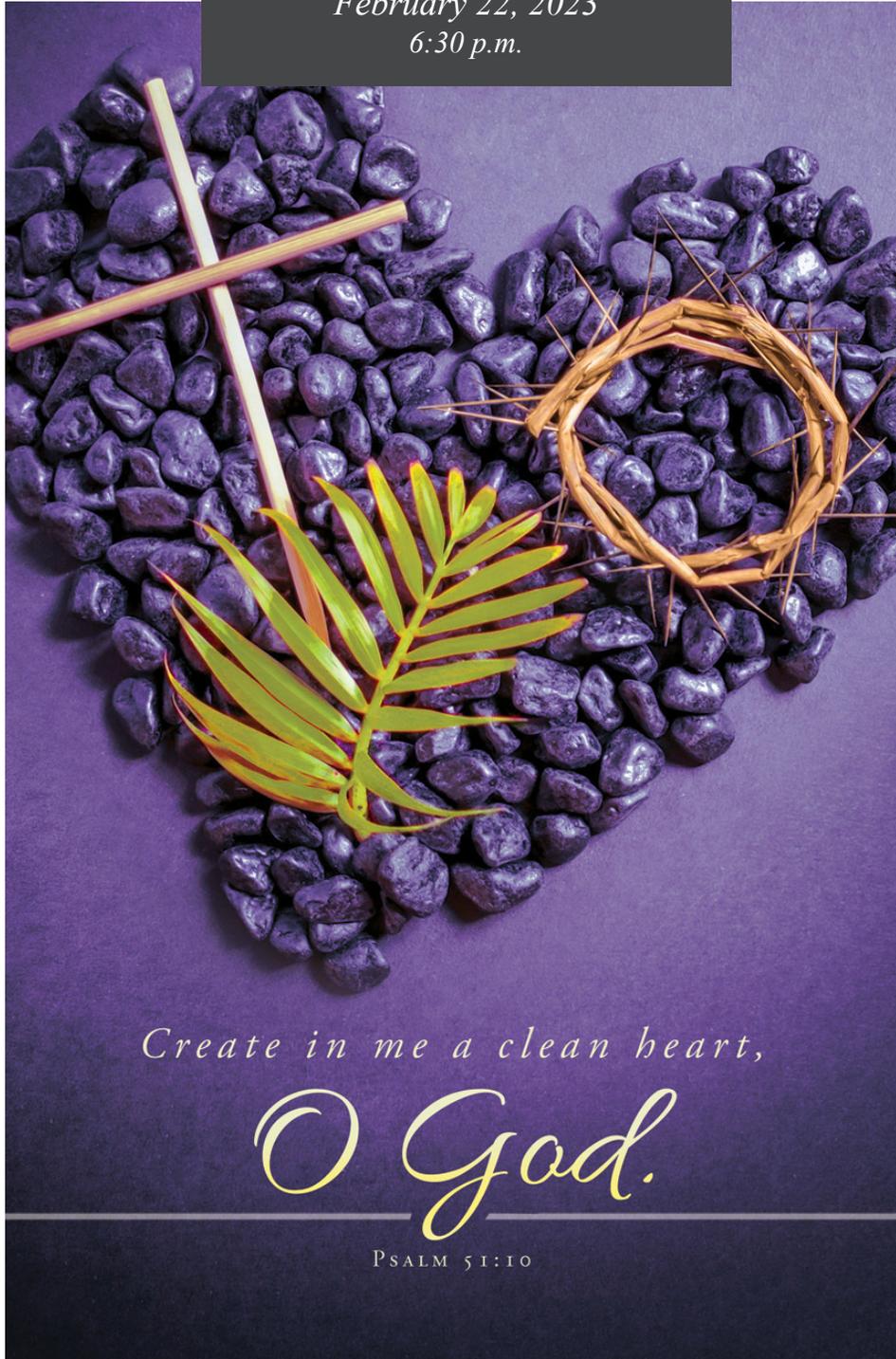




FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

ASH WEDNESDAY
February 22, 2023
6:30 p.m.



Create in me a clean heart,

O God.

PSALM 51:10

WORDS OF PREPARATION

“Genuine repentance involves two things: the dying-away of the old self and the coming-to-life of the new. The dying-away of the old self is to be genuinely sorry for sin, to hate it more and more, and to run away from it. The coming-to-life of the new self is wholehearted joy in God through Christ and a delight to do every kind of good as God wants us to.”

~ based on Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A’s 88-90

ORDER OF WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY

O Mensch beweine dein Sünde gross
 (O Man, bewail thy great sin) BWV 622
 Johann Sebastian Bach

WELCOME

Dr. Ryan Moore

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

All: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

All: Hope in God; for we shall praise him, our help and our God.

*OPENING HYMN 438

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
 TOPLADY

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Dr. John Musgrave

CALL TO CONFESSION

Psalm 51
 David Clark Isele

Refrain:



The sac - ri-fice You ac-cept, O God, is a hum - ble spir-it.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your kindness; in your compassion blot out my offense. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

My offenses, truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done.

Refrain

That you may be justified when you give sentence and be without reproach when you judge, O see, in guilt I was born, a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed, you love truth in the heart; then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom. O purify me, then I shall be clean; O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Refrain

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness, that the bones you have crushed may thrill. From my sins turn away your face and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Refrain

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervor sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you.

O rescue me, God, my helper, and my tongue shall ring out your goodness. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Refrain

For in sacrifice you take no delight, burnt offering from me you would refuse; my sacrifice, a contrite spirit. A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

In your goodness, show favor to Zion: rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice (burnt offerings wholly consumed), then you will be offered young bulls on your altar.

Refrain

PRAYER OF CONFESSION | from Romans 7

What I don't understand about myself is that I decide one way but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise. So if I can't be trusted to figure out what is best for myself and then do it, it becomes obvious that God's command is necessary. But I need something more! For I know the law but still can't keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help!

I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it but I can't do it. I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time.

It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's commands but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight.

Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge. I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question?

Moment for silent confession.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON | Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (page 811)

¹ "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ² "Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵ "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁶ "And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen

by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

When Life Seems Too Short

Dr. Sandra Randleman

ANTHEM

God So Loved the World

John Stainer

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that who so believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Pastor: We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, calls us to heartfelt repentance, and urges us to place our hope in God alone.

All: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes remind us of our mortality and penitence and teach us again that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

THE GOSPEL | Galatians 1:3-4

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to set us free from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

*HYMN 836

Abide with Me

EVENTIDE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

** Those who are able, please stand.*

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, PhD – *Pastor*

John Musgrave, DMin – *Parish Associate*

Sandra Randleman, DMin – *Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Missions*

Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*

Peter Rogahn, DMA – *Organist and Assistant Director of Music*

Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*

Claire Paschal, Daphne Garey, Greg Thomas, Chris Simonsen – *Soloists*

MUSIC NOTES

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