



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 2024

6:30 p.m.



To know Christ, to make Him known and to exhibit His love through worship, education and service.

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

Psalm Prelude: Paraphrase of Psalm 40:1–3
Craig Phillips

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

†WELCOME

INTROIT

My Song Is Love Unknown
LOVE UNKNOWN

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me, love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be. O who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh, and die? He came from heaven's throne salvation to bestow; the world that was his own would not its Savior know. But O my Friend, my Friend indeed, who at my need his life did spend!

*CALL TO WORSHIP | Isaiah 53:5–6

Gage Arnold

Pastor: He was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

All: **All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

*†OPENING HYMN 213

In the Cross of Christ I Glory
RATHBUN

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Dr. Sandra Randleman

CALL TO CONFESSION | Psalm 51

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. *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dr. John Musgrave

All: Most merciful God, whose Son Jesus Christ was tempted in every way, yet without sin, we confess before you our own sinfulness; we have hungered after that which does not satisfy; we have compromised with evil; we have doubted your power to protect us. Forgive us for our lack of faith; have mercy on us. Restore us in such trust and love that we may walk in your ways and delight in doing your will.

Pastor: God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth: forgive our failure to receive him. Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Jesus our Savior, you were born in poverty and laid in a manger: forgive our greed and rejection of your ways. Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: Spirit of love, you call us and empower us to build Christ's kingdom: forgive the hardness of our hearts. Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Moment for silent confession.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON | Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7 (page 2)

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” ^{3,1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” ² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

Hiding from God

Dr. Ryan Moore

ANTHEM

God So Loved the World
John Stainer

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoso 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.**

PSALM

O God, You are My God; Eagerly I Seek You
Psalm 63

My soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water. Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory. For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise. So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name. My soul is content, as with fat and rich food, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips. When I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches, for you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. May those who seek my life to destroy it go down into the depths of the earth; let them fall upon the edge of the sword, and let them be food for jackals. But the king will rejoice in God; all those who swear by him will be glad; for the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped.

THE GOSPEL | Galatians 1:3–4 (page 972)

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ 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.
† Latecomers may be seated.*

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, PhD – *Pastor*
Stuart Gordon, DMin – *Sr. Associate Pastor for Christian Formation & Witness*
John Musgrave, DMin – *Parish Associate*
Sandra Randleman, DMin – *Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Missions*
Gage Arnold, MDiv – *Director of Youth Programming*
Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*
Peter Rogahn, DMA – *Organist and Assistant Director of Music*