

*THE
FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*



ASH WEDNESDAY
Wednesday, February 22, 2023
5:30 P.M.

119 WEST COMMERCE STREET
(AT THE CORNER OF GILES STREET)
BRIDGETON, NJ 08302
PHONE (856)455-0809 WWW.FPCBRIDGETON.ORG

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"O How I Love Jesus"

WELCOME

Liturgist

THE INVITATION TO LENTEN OBSERVANCE

Rev. Kaul

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

With sacrifice, weeping, and mourning,

we return to God.

With honesty and humility,

we acknowledge our humanity.

In accord and in silence,

we offer our prayers.

*HYMN #84 *"In The Cross of Christ I Glory"*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Kaul

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

"Create In Me A Clean Heart"

FPC Choir

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Kaul

Even now the Lord says, Return to me with all your heart.

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger,
abounding in steadfast love.

Thanks be to God for this unimaginable grace.

*GLORIA PATRI

HEARING THE WORD

ANTHEM

"Look To The Rose"

Combined Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

EPISTLE READING

Liturgist

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

N.T. pg 178

GOSPEL READING

Rev. Kaul

Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

N. T. pg 5

SERMON

"Putting On A New Spirit"

Rev. Norlita Kaul

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #370 *“Just as I Am, Without One Plea”*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

IMPOSITION OF ASHES Rev. Kaul

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.
By the cross and passion of our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.

TITHES & OFFERINGS

Offertory

In Christ Alone Jim Clements & Mark Stullenberger

*Doxology

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION/THANKSGIVING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER insert

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN #81 *“Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days”*

*BENEDICTION

May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent, one from another. Amen. (Mizpah Benediction)

POSTLUDE

“They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love” arr. M. Hayes

* - Those who are able, please stand.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Ruler of the Night, Guarantor of the day...

This day-a gift from you.

**This day-like none other you have ever given,
or we have ever received.**

**This Wednesday dazzles us with gift and newness
and possibility.**

**This Wednesday burdens us with the tasks of the day,
for we are already halfway home,
halfway back to committees and memos, halfway back to
calls and appointments, halfway on to next Sunday,
halfway back, half frazzled, half expectant,
half turned toward you, half rather not.**

This Wednesday is long way from the very first Ash Wednesday,
but all our Wednesdays are marked by ashes-
we begin this day with that taste of ash in our mouth:
of failed hope and broken promises,
of forgotten children and frightened women,
we ourselves, are ashes to ashes, dust to dust;
**yes, we can taste our mortality as we roll the ash around
on our tongues. Yet we believe and know, it is to eternal
life we shall go.**

We are able to ponder our ashness with some confidence,
only because our every Wednesday of ashes anticipates your
Easter victory over that taste of death.

**On this Wednesday, we submit our ashen way to you
-(and lift up to you, those who remain on our hearts, minds and
spirits this day-Congregation Is Invited Pray using first
names only)**

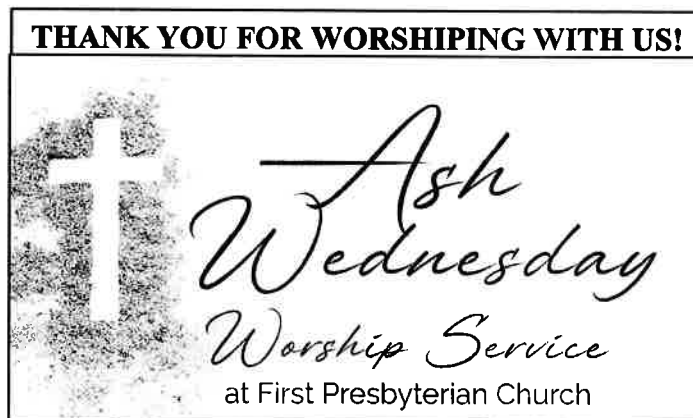
We bring these before you this night, awaiting you, and your Easter parade of newness.

Before the sun sets, take our Wednesday and Easter us,
Easter us to joy and energy and courage and freedom;
Easter us that we may be fearless for your truth.
We bid you O God please come here
and Easter our Wednesday with
Mercy, justice, peace and generosity.

We pray as we wait for the Risen One who comes soon, who taught us to pray saying:

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.**



We would like to thank Greenwich Church
for their participation in worship
and all who joined us this Ash Wednesday!

Session Members

Debbi
Boykin-Greenberg

Albert Fooks

Curtis Homan

Debbie Homan

Franz Pampuch

Sandy Zimmerman

Rev. Norlita Kaul,
Moderator

Deacons

Linda Ambrose

Amy Brewer

Robert Dragotta

Marie Dunham

Debbie Fooks

Darlene Freitag

Robin Freitag

Jane Hankins

Jody Husted

Heather Newkirk

Marge Pampuch

Trustees

Yvonne Custis

Bill Freitag

Ken Freitag

Bruce Hankins

Sandra Huster

Sherry Macpherson

Caroline Owens

Beth Schultz

Howard Thorn

Church Staff

REV. NORLITA KAUL, PASTOR

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GAE FINCH, ORGANIST AND CHOIR DIRECTOR

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EMAIL: FIRSTPRESBRIDGETON@GMAIL.COM

JOHN AMBROSE, CLERK TO SESSION

BOB WOODRUFF, TREASURER

