



FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA

Rev. Brian Louis, Pastor
Elder George Wheat, Worship Leader
Janis Wheat, Director of Music
Debi Godwin, Choir Director
Jeff Durham, Video Tech
Bethany Dunn, Video Tech



Order of Worship

Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

At the sound of the chimes, please silence your phone and prepare for worship.

CHIMES

PRELUDE - "Create Within Me a Clean Heart" - Moore

INTROIT - "Change My Heart, O God" - #695 (Faith Choir)

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

God's love endures forever.

God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

God's love endures forever.

* OPENING HYMN - "Just As I Am, Without One Plea" - #442

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Merciful God, your word is our way of truth and life. Create in us hearts that are clean and put your Holy Spirit within us, so that we may receive your grace and declare your praise forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE -- Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE -- 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

GOSPEL -- Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

SERMON “A Season of Reflection”

ANTHEM - “At Your Mercy Seat” - Goss (Faith Choir)

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

Beloved people of God: every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marks the penitence of this community.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by meditating on God’s word. Now let us bow before God, our creator and redeemer, and confess our sin.

(Please observe a time of silence for reflection and self-examination.)

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE - Psalm 51:1-17 (responsively)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother’s womb.

Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit

Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise.

For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it You are not pleased with burnt offering. The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

LITANY OF PENTINENCE

Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

have mercy on us, O God.

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness. For the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

have mercy on us, O God

For our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,

have mercy on us, O God

For our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

have mercy on us, O God.

For our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

have mercy on us, O God.

For our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

have mercy on us, O God.

Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
have mercy on us, O God.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
have mercy on us, O God.

For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God of our salvation, and show us your steadfast love.
Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, for it is only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. ***Amen.***

(You are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes.)

~ Please take a candle in the basket, light it from the large purple candle and place it in the sand as you remember this is the beginning of a Holy season. Observe self-examination and penitence by prayer and fasting, works of love, and meditating on God's word. ~

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.

* **HYMN** - "***Sign Us With Ashes***" - #433 (Refrain, Verse 1, Verse 6, Refrain)

* **BLESSING AND CHARGE**

May the God of peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being—spirit, soul, and body— free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ***Amen.*** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. ***Amen.***

(Please leave the sanctuary in silence)