

SENDING

*Hymn 81 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* ST. FLAVIAN

*Blessing and Charge

*Postlude *Improvisation* John Coble

All depart in silence.

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NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*

Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*

Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

John Tsao, *Soloist*

USHERS

Beverly Phares, Jimbo LaBoon III

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIANS

Bryan Owens, Jack Palmer

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office, 706-543-4338, or by the Prayer Request link on our church website (firstpresathens.org).

Lent and Holy Week Services & Activities

Labyrinth in Fellowship Hall, Mondays through Thursdays throughout Lent, 1:00-4:00 p.m., starting on February 22.

No reservations needed, masks required. Please check-in with church staff to let them know that you are here to walk the Labyrinth.

Palm Sunday, March 28

Limited in-person worship at 10:00 a.m. with livestreaming on Facebook and YouTube

Downtown Prayer Walk

You are invited to pick up a palm branch and map beside the church office door, available Palm Sunday through Holy Week. Walk the suggested route, stopping at 14 points to offer prayer. A “virtual walk” will be available on our website

Maundy Thursday Service via Zoom, April 1, 7:00 p.m., (Zoom ID: 706-543-4338)

We will gather over Zoom for the Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m. You are invited to have available for hand or foot washing a tub of hot water and towel (soap, washcloth, and lotion, optional).

Good Friday, April 2

Presbyterian Community Virtual Service. Pre-recorded and shared with Athens Area Presbyterian Churches, the service will be available online at 9:00 a.m.

Easter, April 4, One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Limited in-person worship at 10:00 a.m. with livestreaming on Facebook and YouTube



February 17, 2021

12:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday

GATHERING

Prelude

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Alec Wyton

Opening Sentences

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in love.

Litany for Lent

For forty days and nights the rain fell,
and the waters covered the face of the earth.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

For forty years the people wandered,
seeking the land of God's promise.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Moses spent forty days on the mountain,
learning the commandments of God.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Elijah traveled forty days in the wilderness
to hear the voice of God in the silence.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Jonah cried out to the people of Nineveh:
Repent, or in forty days you will perish.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days
and was tested by the devil.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

(after a brief silence): Eternal God,
as we are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ,
so give us the grace of repentance
that we may pass through the grave with him
and be born again to eternal life.

For he is the One
who was crucified, dead, and buried,
and rose again for us,

Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

Solo

Create a Pure Heart in Me

Susan Matsui

Create a pure heart in me, O Lord. Grant me a new and steadfast spirit. Do not drive me away from thy presence, or take thy Spirit from me. Revive in me the joy of deliverance, grant me a steady soul to uphold me. Open thou my lips, everlasting Lord, that my mouth may sing thy praises. Thou takest no delight in sacrifice, nor hast thou any wish for whole offering. My sacrifice, Lord, is a broken soul, my offering, a contrite heart.

*Those who are able may stand.

WORD

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.

Scripture Luke 9:51-62

Homily

On the Road

Dr. Carol Stickland

Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

*Psalm 51:1-17

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Imposition of Ashes

Those who wish may come forward to receive the imposition of ashes. One of the ministers will mark your forehead with ashes as a reminder that all of us will someday die, and as a sign that we trust in God's grace in Jesus Christ. You may also come forward for a blessing without ashes.

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.**