



FEBRUARY 22, 2023

THE SANCTUARY

6:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa

Born by grace in 1885

The Words of Preparation

Ash Wednesday is full of joy...The source of all sorrow is the illusion that, of ourselves, we are anything but dust. God is all our joy, and in him our dust can become splendor. Thomas Merton

The Welcome

The Prayer of Preparation

Rev. Julia Metcalf

(Congregation joins on the third stanza of this prayer)

O Lord, hear my prayer; O Lord, hear my prayer, when I call answer me! O Lord, hear my prayer; O Lord, hear my prayer. Come, and listen to me.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God. The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

O Lord, hear my prayer; O Lord, hear my prayer, when I call answer me! O Lord, hear my prayer; O Lord, hear my prayer. Come, and listen to me.

Let us pray:

Rev. Wambugu

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are truly sorry; create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, truly sorry for our sins and acknowledging our need, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect freedom and forgiveness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Silence

Be silent before the Lord, all people, for He has roused Himself from His holy dwelling.

Zechariah 2:13

The Call to Worship

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,

But that the world might be saved through him.

So let us stand,

And let us worship God!

◆ **The Hymn** 543 Abide With Me EVENTIDE

The First Reading Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

The Sung Response

Jesus, Strong and Kind

Worship 101 Singers

Jesus said that if I thirst, I should come to him. No one else can satisfy. I should come to him. Jesus said if I am weak, I should come to him. No one else can be my strength. I should come to him.

For the Lord is good and faithful. He will keep us day and night. We can always run to Jesus, Jesus, strong and kind.

(Congregation sings)

Jesus said that if I fear, I should come to him. No one else can be my shield. I should come to him. *(Refrain)*

Jesus said if I am lost, He will come to me, and he showed me on that cross, He will come to me. *(Refrain)*

The Old Testament Reading Genesis 2:7 Isla Bristow

The Gospel Reading John 10:10 Eden Bristow

The Homily The Only Source of Life

The Song of Preparation Bless the Lord, My Soul

Bless the Lord, my soul. And bless God's Holy Name. Bless the Lord my soul. Who leads me into life. (*Repeat*)

The Confession

Lord God, we have sinned and done evil in your sight,

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have not followed your law,

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have not loved you with our whole being.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have not loved our neighbors.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have not trusted you to keep your promises.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have tried to find life apart from you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have not taken your commandments seriously.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have loved the world more than you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

For all that we have done that sent Jesus to the cross; for every sin that pounded the nails deep into his hands; for every wrong that causes others to doubt your goodness and your truth,

Have mercy on us, O God.

Lord, we are completely dependent upon you.

Make us whole and give us new life in Christ. For we wait upon you.

The 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, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our savior. **Amen.**

*From dust you have come and to dust you shall return:
stay close to the Master.*

The Gospel Proclamation (Ephesians 2:1-2a, 4-5)

And you were once dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked...But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive with Christ—by grace you have been saved...

Thanks be to God for his glorious salvation!

◆ **The Hymn** In Christ Alone

In Christ alone, my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song. This Cornerstone, this solid Ground; firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace; when fears are stilled, when strivings cease? My Comforter, my All in All; here, in the love of Christ, I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh; fullness of God in helpless babe. This gift of love and righteousness; scorned by the ones He came to save. 'Til on that cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied; for every sin on Him was laid; here, in the death of Christ, I live.

There, in the ground, His body lay; light of the world by darkness slain. Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again! And, as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me; for I am His and He is mine; bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death; this is the power of Christ in me. From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny. No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand; 'til He returns or calls me home; here, in the power of Christ, I'll stand.

The Prayers of the People

◆ **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, which 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, for ever. Amen.

◆ **The Benediction**

May the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwell in you, and may He give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit –now, forever, and always.

Romans 8:11

Worshippers are asked to leave the sanctuary in silence, pondering this love, "so amazing, so divine, that it demands our life, our soul, our all."