



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**Shelbyville, Tennessee**  
**Sunday, February 14, 2021**  
**Transfiguration of the Lord**



February 10, 2021

Dear Friends,

I hope God has continued to bless you and your loved ones with good health.

Ash Wednesday is just a week away! My goodness.

Ash Wednesday, Wednesday, February 17th, begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession. As we begin this season of reflection we do so by acknowledging that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory, by repenting and turning to our loving creator.

Ash Wednesday developed in the medieval period as a time when penitent sinners were presented for church discipline during the season of Lent and to be reconciled with the community of faith on Maundy Thursday. Ash Wednesday also came to be the occasion for new believers to enroll in a period of preparation for baptism at Easter. For those who undertake spiritual disciplines, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten fast.

Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance, sorrow, and sacrifice. Traditionally, the ashes for this serve are made from the palm branches of the previous year; thus, the ashes and palms together frame the season of Lent.

In anticipation of Lent this year your Worship and Music Committee is putting together a Lenten packet for our congregation. This packet will include daily devotionals to guide you during this season of Lent. These were written by one of our own, Roger Gench.

The packets will also include a small package of ashes for Ash Wednesday and a small palm cross. We hope you will find these devotionals helpful during your Lenten journey this year.

I want to thank all of you who participated in our Souper Bowl Sunday challenge. Y'all performed better than the Chiefs did. But like I said before, the real winners are those whom your gifts will feed and nourish.

But wait! There's more! This coming Sunday is also the second Sunday of the month when we collect food for the Good Samaritan food pantry. I have been putting the collection back outside the Fellowship Hall this week and we have had a number of donations dropped off already.

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We will continue to put it out during office hours so those of you who have donations can drop them off at your convenience. And thank you.

I know we are all weary of the COVID-19 restrictions we have been living under for over a year now and our patience is wearing thin. But folks, now is not the time to relax our efforts. We still have a long way to go before we can return to anything like normal. The new variants have me a bit worried.

I understand a growing number of our members have received the first shot and some have already received both. That is good news. We are heading in the right direction, but we have not yet reached our journey's end, so please stay vigilant, stay smart and stay safe.

Last, but not least, please continue to pray for our nation as this experiment in self governance faces the challenges that are now before us. I'm praying.

Grace and Peace

Taylor



## **SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY~SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Ash Wednesday is this coming Wednesday. Our in-person restrictions are still in effect so we will once again be worshiping virtually once again. Your Worship and Music Committee and church staff are putting together a Lenten packet for you. Included in the packet will be a series of daily devotionals starting with Ash Wednesday, a small packet of ashes if you wish to use them during our Ash Wednesday service, and a small cross made from palms.

The daily devotionals are written by Roger Gench, a PC(USA) minister. We have downloadable versions as well as hard copies available. If you would like an electronic version contact Shirley and she can send those out to you. If you want the ashes and a palm cross, we will have those available at the church for folks to pick up early next week.

If you or someone you know in the church is unable to pick up a packet let us know and we will send those via USPS. We make no guarantees those packets will make it through the mail on time this year.

Our stated monthly session meeting is this Monday evening, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. We will be meeting by Zoom.

I will be out of the office on Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> until later in the afternoon.  
Please keep those on the prayer list in your prayers this coming week.

## **Prelude**

**Billie Crowell**

## **Responsive Call to Worship**

Leader: The glory of God shines like a consuming fire.

**People: We have seen the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

Leader: The voice of God thunders like a might storm.

**People: Out of the cloud, God speaks: This is my beloved Son; listen to Him.**

## **Prayer of Preparation**

Holy and mighty God, gather us among Your faithful ones, the people of Your covenant, to stand in the light of Your glory and listen for the word of the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## **Call to Confession**

God alone is righteous; God alone is perfect; God alone is judge. Yet this holy, righteous God comes to us in love, to save us. Rejoicing in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

*(A time of silent personal confession).* Amen.

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Our God comes and does not keep silence; God speaks to us with grace and love, saying: You are my beloved children. This is the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

## **Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen. Amen.

## **Passing of the Peace**

Minister: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Minister: Please share the peace of Christ with those around you.

## **Time for Children**

**Kate Canady**

## **Prayer for Illumination**

Speak to us, O Lord our God, and let the fire of Your Spirit burn brightly in our hearts. Open our minds to receive the wisdom of the law, the hope of the prophets, and the life of the gospel. Amen.

**Scripture****Titus 2:11-14 and Mark 9:2-9****Sermon****“Christ our Catalyst”****Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd****Profession of Faith**

(Adapted from “A Brief Statement of Faith”, The Book of Confessions, PC(USA))

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all people to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Prayers of the People and 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.

**Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
Amen

**Prayer of Dedication**

We give You thanks, God of all creation, for the power of Your life-giving Word, making the winds blow and the waters flow. Receive these gifts from our hands and use them to bring peace and blessing to all Your children.

**Postlude****Billie Crowell**



**BACKPACKS** planning is in the works.

We are looking at preparing approximately 100 boxes this Spring.

You can help with this all to important ministry by make a monetary donation. You may mail your donation (noting it be used for Backpacks) to FPC, 600 N. Brittain St., 37160.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the office at 684-6541; M-F 8am-1pm

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## *Children's & Youth Ministry*

**Children's Church at 9:00am via Zoom on Sundays through  
Youth will meet at 6:00pm on Sundays through via Zoom.**



Matt Coroson, Evelyn Davidson, Bob & Alice Durio,  
Pat Edmiston, Tommy Franks, Elaine Holcombe, Carolyn  
Matusek, Gail Parsons

In Military Service: LT Andy Canady, Airman Chase Blanton.  
*Those serving at home and abroad.*

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**COMMUNION PREPARATION    March 7th    Kate Canady & Belinda Craig**

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Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.

*Romans 12:2 (NRSV)*