

March 5, 2025
7:00 p.m.
Ash Wednesday

ORGAN PRELUDE (If you must speak, speak to God)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Carolyn Stevenson

THE INTROIT "Because He Lives" Matt Maher

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

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 very 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.

God abides with us and teaches us to die to self and to live repentant lives.

God's love endures forever. We return, we remember, and we will listen well. Let us worship God.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION Rev. Glen C. Misick

OPENING HYMN #263 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, You are one who guards and guides our way. Have mercy upon us. To follow You is to trust You in paradox; that from a broken, aching heart, rises a healing and hopeful heart. That out of weakness and vulnerability, grows the quickening of Christ's Love. That in darkness and despair, the radiance of Christ's Light shines. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, we fail to follow You; we turn away. Forgive us, we pray.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Glen C. Misick

Friends, God's Word teaches us that when we confess our sins, our Lord is faithful and just and will forgive our sins. Know that in Christ you are forgiven!

Amen. Thanks be to God.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Apostles' Creed)

Let us confess the faith of the Church as one, using the words of the Apostles' Creed. Church, what do you believe?

I believe in God the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from whence He shall come to judge the living 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.

(*universal)

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 51 (O.T. pg. 520)

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (N.T. pg. 5, pg.6)

ANTHEM

"King Of Kings"

Hillsong

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SERMON:

"A Heart of Repentance" Rev. Glen C. Misick

*RESPONSE HYMN #322

"Spirit of the Living God"

IMPOSITION OF ASHES:

From dust we came, to dust we shall return; and even yet, we sing "Alleluia" at the grave because death is not the end, only a sign of an impending resurrection. May these ashes tonight be for us a sign of our mortality, a desire for repentance, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

At this time, we invite you forward, as the ushers direct, to be marked with the sign of ashes.

Into your loving and merciful ways, Source of Being, **we commend our lives.**

Accomplish in us, Holy One, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, **the work of your saving grace.**

By the passion of our Savior, Jesus Christ, bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

CARRYING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN #536 "Lord, Make Us More Holy"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Instrumental"

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

*Please stand if able



Ash Wednesday

Strewing ashes upon the head was in Old Testament times a sign of grief and mourning, a symbolic representation of the biblical words in Genesis: "Remember that you are but dust and to dust you shall return." The season of Lent, however, no matter how sad or somber, is always dominated at every moment by the joyful expectation of Christ's Easter victory.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

Rev. Glen C. Misick

March 5, 2025



"A Heart of Repentance"