



*First*  
*Presbyterian Church*  
Port Charlotte, FL



*Wednesday, March 5, 2025*

Ash Wednesday Service

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# *God Calls Us to Worship*



## **CHIMES, GREETING & PRELUDE**

*Remembrance Medley*

Piano duet with Heather Degroot and Susan Brems

## **WELCOME**

## **THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE✝**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP✝**

\*Adapted from Joel 2 by Katherine Lee Baker, M.Div.

One: Blow the trumpet in Zion and let the people tremble, ...

All: ... for the day of the Lord is coming. The God of glory is near.

One: Never has there been such darkness and never have we imagined such glory.

All: The ruler of all ages will triumph with greatness and power.

One: This is our Lord who is above all others. The earth quakes and the heavens tremble.

All: The sun and the moon are darkened; the stars no longer shine.

One: The Lord utters his voice and all hosts are commanded.

All: Truly, the day of the Lord is great. Who can endure it?

Hallelujah! Only God can endure it!

## **OPENING HYMN✝**

*#539 My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

## *We Renew Our Relationship With God*

## **PRAYER OF ADORATION**

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Psalm 51

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

✝Please stand in body or in spirit



3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

4 Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight; so You are right in Your verdict and justified when You judge.

5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

6 Yet You desired faithfulness even in the womb; You taught me wisdom in that secret place.

7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones You have crushed rejoice.

9 Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, so that sinners will turn back to You.

14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, You who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of Your righteousness.

15 Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; **You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**

17 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart You, God, will not despise.

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*We Respond to God*

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*When I Survey The Wondrous Cross*

*God Speaks to Us*

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

Joel 2:1-2; 12-17 (NIV)

1 Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in





the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming. It is close at hand—2 a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. Like dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes, such as never was in ancient times nor ever will be in ages to come. [...] 12 “Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” 13 Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. 14 Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing—grain offerings and drink offerings for the Lord your God. 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. 16 Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. Let the priests, who minister before the Lord, weep between the portico and the altar. Let them say, “Spare your people, Lord. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**HOMILY**

“Not Your Forehead But Your Heart”

**TIME OF SELF-EXAMINATION & REPENTANCE**

**THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**CLOSING HYMN** †

#349 *O How He Loves You and Me*

*God Sends Us Into the World*

**CHARGE & BENEDICTION** †

