

Ash Wednesday



**Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
February 26, 2020**

530 St. Andrews Rd., Columbia, SC 29210

Phone: (803) 772-1761

Email: sopc@sopc.net

As you Enter the Sanctuary

In Christ's name we welcome you to our Ash Wednesday Service at Seven Oaks. Tonight's service is a reflective and meditative service incorporating elements of the Taize' worship style. The repetitive phrases from the Psalms and music invite us into a prayerful, meditative worship. We remind you to please take a moment and turn off all cell phones and electronic devices out of respect for those worshipping tonight.

"God is in His Holy Temple, let all earth keep silence before Him".

What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the 40-day period of fasting and penitence before Easter. On Ash Wednesday, we receive the sign of the cross on our foreheads, reminding us of our mortality and humanity as we begin the Lenten Fast. The ashes are a Biblical symbol of repentance, sorrow, and humility. There are many cases in the Scriptures of wearing ashes as a sign of penitence, often while wearing sackcloth.

As we receive the ashes this evening, remember that *"from dust we were created and to dust we shall return"* (Genesis 3:19). As we have been baptized in Jesus Christ, we participate in both His death and His resurrection. While we acknowledge in humility our mortality and our need for God's forgiveness and grace in our lives, we hold fast to the truth that death does not have the last word as Jesus journeys to Jerusalem.



GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude and Lighting of the Christ candle: *What Wondrous Love* Marc Jordan

Gathering Hymn *What Wondrous Love is This* **Hymn 215**

Gathering Scripture *Psalms 51* Rev. Jana Creighton

One: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

All: Put a new and right spirit within me.

One: Have mercy on me, O God, According to your steadfast love;
According to your abundant mercy Blot out my transgressions.
Create in me a clean heart, O God;

All: Put a new and right spirit within me.

One: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
Create in me a clean heart, O God;

All: Put a new and right spirit within me.

Prayer of the Day

Hymn *Be Still and Know That I Am God* **Hymn 414**

First Reading *Psalms 51:1-17*

Hymn *Be Still and Know That I Am God* **Hymn 414**

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 58:1-12*

Hymn *Be Still and Know That I Am God* **Hymn 414**

Gospel Reading *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

One: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Meditation *"Getting Ready"* Rev. Jana Creighton

Call to Confession

Prayer for Confession

Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer

Almighty God, we bow before you this night with our sins weighing heavily on our hearts. You know our failures before we even utter our thoughts. Lord, we confess that we often seek our own wills instead of yours. We confess that we hide our faces from your glory; that we intentionally choose to follow paths not of your righteousness, but of the world around. Accept our repentance this day, O Lord, and all the days ahead. That we may fall humbly at your feet in prayer and feel your grace renew us with your vigor, patience, and love. We ask that you heal your church and bring your disciples together for your glory. You are the Lord who marks our forehead with your finger, who claims us with your breath of regeneration, and who will not rest until we are transformed in your Spirit. May your saving grace enter into our hearts that we may know you fully as you know our hearts.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Invitation to the Imposition of Ashes Rev. Jana Creighton & Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer

- *Please come forward at this time for the imposition of ashes on your forehead.*
- *Please raise your hand if you wish to receive at your seat*

Hymn

Jesus, Remember Me

Hymn 227

**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

Response:

One: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation

All: That we may show forth your glory and unity in the world.

One: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

All: Brings us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.

Sending Hymn

Lord, Who Throughout these Forty Days

Hymn 166

Blessing and Charge:

One: Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

All may quietly depart