

First Presbyterian Church

Rockaway, NJ

Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022

Join Zoom Worship (login beginning at 7:00 PM EST)

<https://zoom.us/join>

**Phone in: (mobile or home phone) +1 929 205 6099 US
(New York)**

Meeting ID: 468 322 0487

Passcode: FPCR2021 One tap mobile)

+16465588656,,4683220487#,,,*67022253# US (New York)



**Indicates congregation is invited to stand*

PRELUDE

“BE THOU MY VISION”

Traditional Irish Melody
Setting by Joel Rane

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Merciful God, we are but dust.

But as the abundance of the earth displays,

You can do phenomenal things with dust.

From the daisy to the redwood,

from the strawberry to the apple tree,

from the tamarind to the tomatillo,

You fill this world with beauty and splendor,

With life beyond our wildest imaginations.

We know that if we open our hearts and minds,

You, Creator God, will do phenomenal things through us.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, you created us out of the dust of the earth and breathed into us the breath of life. By your hand we live and to your hands we return when all our days are done. Grant that the awareness of our mortality may lead us not to fear, but to faith. In our weakness teach us to look to you for strength, in our failures to turn to you and find forgiveness, and in our dying to await the gift of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

***HYMN: Just as I Am, Without One Plea**

No. 442

Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou biddest me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears with in, without
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A LENTEN DISCIPLINE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We have heard the trumpets of Zion, and know that the day of the Lord is drawing near. But even now, O God, you have called us to return to you, for you are slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Help us choose the path that leads to repentance.

God, all too often we have practiced our piety in public, basking in the glory of our fellow human beings. Remind us to turn our faces toward you, knowing that our reward for faithfulness is in heaven.

Help us choose the path that leads to repentance.

We have stored up treasures on earth; trinkets that mean nothing when judgement comes. Tonight we pause, acknowledging that we are but dust, and one day to dust **we will** return.

Help us choose the path that leads to repentance.

We confess we have often run from our own mortality regardless of the cost. Help us to run toward you. Give us courage to remember how fleeting this life is, and that we must therefore devote our all to you.

Help us choose the path that leads to repentance.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: (UNISON)

Merciful God, your word is our way of truth and life. Create in us hearts that are clean and put your Holy Spirit within us, so that we may receive your grace and declare your praise forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

¹²Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. ¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

¹”Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²”So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵”And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners ; so they may be seen by other. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Anthem: “Give Me A Clean Heart” Words and Music by Margaret Pleasant Douroux

MEDITATION:

Ryon Herin, MDiv.

Litany of Penitence: With confidence in God’s mercy, let us pray for the world and for ourselves, saying, God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the church, that in this season of fasting and repentance the people of God may recognize their detachments from God’s creation and seek to restore the creator’s justice. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For a world in which peace seems unreachable, that the nations might seek peace with one another. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the leaders and powerful persons of the world, that they might lead with integrity, and be imbued with respect for all of creation. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For Rockaway Borough and Township and all who live here, that neighborhoods might be places where all good things are free to grow. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all the least, last, and lost, that they may be delivered from the distress. For God's people, that we might hear their cries, God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

For all these things, and those known only to you, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen**

BLESSING AND IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

LENTEN PRAYER (UNISON)

Lord, we face this Lenten journey not sure if we are ready or if it would just be easier to stay in our safety and comfort zone. Help us to take the risk of looking within and looking beyond ourselves to the joy that awaits us. Give us hearts of courage and strength for the tasks which lie ahead. Be with each one of us as we move from the winter of discouragement to the spring of hope. Cleanse our spirits and make us truly ready to be your disciples. For we ask this in Jesus' Name, AMEN

***HYMN**

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

No. 165

The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise,
for Christ, by whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed.

Alone and fasting Moses saw the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting, came the steeds and chariots of flame.

So Daniel trained his mystic sight, delivered from the lions' might;
and John, the Bride-groom's friend, became the herald of Messiah's name.

Then grant that we like them be true, consumed in fast and prayer with you;
our spirits strengthen with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE:

“I Need Thee Every Hour”

Jane Vogt

Tune: NEED by Robert Lowry

Lenten Friday Noontime Music & Meditation

Many of us have missed the Rockaway Ecumenical Noontime Lenten Lunches over the past 2 years. Those lunches gave us the opportunity to gather as Christ’s body to experience Lent together.

COVID brought our area to quarantine during Lent in March 2020 and has continued to restrict gatherings ever since, unfortunately resulting in no Lenten Lunch Series again this year.

So, in lieu of those lunches, Richard Hanson, Director of Music Ministries at the Rockaway and Teabo United Methodist churches, will be offering a special time for meditation and reflection each Friday during Lent at 12 Noon. (3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8) Rich will be providing 30 – 40 minutes of reflective music on both organ and piano and give us the opportunity to come in, listen to some music, pray and reflect on the Lenten season. **“Come as you are, stay as long as you like!”** There will be a closing prayer by one of the clergy.

This Lenten series will conclude with our traditional Ecumenical Good Friday service held at the United Methodist Church of the Rockaways on April 15, 2022 also beginning at noon.

This music series, as well as the Good Friday service will also be live streamed. If you aren’t able to join in person, please join us using the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/UnitedMethodistChurchOfTheRockaways>

Wishing you God’s Peace and Blessings!

First Presbyterian Church

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Pastor Ryon Herin

ryon@fpcrockaway.org

E-mail: office@fpcrockaway.org **Website:** www.fpcrockaway.org

Church School—9:15 am Sunday Morning Worship Service—10:30 am

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday,

Bonnie Pomeroy, *Director of Music*

Robert Nichols, *Cemetery Sexton*

Karen Basile, *Clerk of Session*

Presbyterian Church Co-op Nursery School (PCCNS) - 973-586-3665

Cheryl Piscopo; *Director*

directorpccns@gmail.com

