

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021

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**A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

(Click [here](#) to connect to this evening's live worship.)

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*In preparation for celebrating communion from where you are, **please have your own bread and cup available at the beginning of worship** so that we might partake of the elements at the same time during this evening's service.*

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**GATHERING MUSIC**

*Prelude on St. Philip*

Healey Willan

**WELCOME**

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

**PRELUDE**

*Two Variations on "Forty Days and Forty Nights"*

Christa Rakich (2021)

*Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;  
Forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.*

*Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by Your side,  
That with You we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mindy Douglas

Leader: We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins,  
aware of our frailty and our failings.

All: **We come seeking God's mercy,  
acknowledging our mortality.**

Leader: Having received the waters of baptism,

All: **we come now to recall our beginning and our ending,  
from dust to dust.**

Leader: May we humble ourselves before God  
not with a yoke of burden

All: **but a mantle of freedom in Jesus' name.**

**HYMN No. 427** (verses 1, 4)

*Jesus Knows the Inmost Heart*

Loe De Ísá

Refrain (sung twice): ***Jesus knows the inmost heart: nothing can be hidden.***

***This our sinful hearts require:  
flame of God's refining fire,  
working in us day by day  
till the dross is burned away.*** (Refrain)

***So our faith will be restored  
by the word of Christ our Lord;  
for the warmth his love imparts  
melts the very hardest hearts.*** (Refrain)

**COLLECT FOR THE DAY**

John Weicher

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **God of our salvation,  
 we long to be reconciled to you.  
 Help us clear away any obstacle  
 that prevents us from accepting the grace of Christ.  
 No matter what we face in this life,  
 increase in us knowledge and patience,  
 kindness and holiness of spirit,  
 genuine love and truthful speech,  
 so that, by the power of God at work in us,  
 we may live even as we are dying  
 and rejoice even in our sorrows.  
 Though it may seem that we have nothing,  
 if we are reconciled to you,  
 we possess everything,  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

John Weicher

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!****GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!****MEDITATION**

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

**INVITATION TO OBSERVE THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE**

Mindy Douglas

**LITANY OF PENITENCE**

Mindy Douglas, John Weicher

Leader: Holy and merciful God,  
 we confess to you and to one another,  
 and to the whole communion of saints  
 in heaven and on earth,  
 that we have sinned by our own fault  
 in thought, word, and deed,  
 by what we have done,  
 and by what we have left undone.  
 We have not loved you with our whole heart  
 and mind and strength.  
 We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
 We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

All: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Leader: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness.  
 For the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

All: **have mercy on us, O God.**

Leader: For our self-indulgent appetites and ways  
and our exploitation of other people,  
All: **have mercy on us, O God.**  
Leader: For our anger at our own frustration  
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,  
All: **have mercy on us, O God.**  
Leader: For our negligence in prayer and worship,  
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,  
All: **have mercy on us, O God.**  
Leader: For our neglect of human need and suffering  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,  
All: **have mercy on us, O God.**  
Leader: For all false judgments,  
for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,  
and for our prejudice and contempt  
toward those who differ from us,  
All: **have mercy on us, O God.**  
Leader: Restore us, O God of our salvation,  
and show us your steadfast love.  
All: **Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us.**

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

**HYMN No. 467** (verses 2-4)

*Give Us Light*

*Jyothi Dho*



2 Give us life; give us life; give us life, O Lord.  
3 Grant us peace; grant us peace; grant us peace, O Lord.  
4 Save us now; save us now; save us now, O Lord.

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

Mindy Douglas

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

John Weicher

Leader: The Lord be with you.  
All: **And also with you.**  
Leader: Lift up your hearts.  
All: **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
Leader: You are our God, and we are the creatures of your hand.  
You made us from the dust of the earth,  
breathed into us the breath of life,  
and set us in your world to love and serve you.  
When we rejected your love and ignored your wisdom,  
you did not reject us.

You loved us still and called us to turn again to you  
in obedience and in love.

Therefore, we praise you,  
joining our voices with the heavenly choirs  
and with all the faithful of every time and place,  
who forever say to the glory of your name:

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.  
Out of your great love for the world,  
you sent Jesus among us  
to set us free from the tyranny of evil.  
He lived as one of us,  
sharing our joys and sorrows.  
By his dying and rising,  
he releases us from bondage to sin  
and frees us from the dominion of death.

All: **Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.**

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy spirit upon us  
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,  
that the bread we break and the cup we bless  
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.  
By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ  
and with all who are baptized in his name,  
that we may be one in ministry in every place.  
As this bread is Christ's body for us,  
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.  
Lead us, O God, by the power of your Spirit  
to live as the Lord requires:  
to do justice, to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with you, our God.  
Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus Christ  
until this mortal life is ended,  
and all that is earthly returns to dust.  
Give us strength to serve you faithfully  
until the promised day of resurrection,  
when, with the redeemed of all the ages,  
we will feast with you at your table in glory.  
Through Christ,  
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,  
with the Holy Spirit in the holy church,  
now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (in unison)

**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.**

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **God of compassion,  
through your Son Jesus Christ  
you reconciled your people to yourself.  
Following his example of prayer and fasting,  
may we obey you with willing hearts  
and serve one another in holy love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**HYMN No. 427** (verses 2-3) *Jesus Knows the Inmost Heart*

*Loe De Ísá*

Refrain (sung twice): ***Jesus knows the inmost heart: nothing can be hidden.***

***Jesus knows our deepest fears,  
knows the pain of hidden tears.  
By his words of love and peace  
every heart can find release.*** (Refrain)

***When our lives are in his hand  
nothing can his work withstand;  
his forgiveness sets us free,  
saves us for eternity.*** (Refrain)

**CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION**

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

**POSTLUDE**

*Lord, I Cry Out to Thee*

Otto Diemel

**First Presbyterian Church** welcomes all who worship with us. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church.

**Many thanks** to **John Fricks, Jody Maxwell, Pat Dillon, Keith Rokoske, and Jay Klinck**, for their behind-the-scenes technical assistance with our live broadcasts of worship. We are also grateful to **Jennie Alwood** for the powerful images accompanying our online services.

**Portions of this evening's worship texts** are taken from *Book of Common Worship* (2018) and *Call to Worship* (2020-2021). **Hymn texts and music** are reprinted from *Glory to God* under Onelicense.net: A.713926.



## The Season of LENT is here!

Plants, animals, people -- we all need a little tending to help us grow. What happens if we approach our faith with the tender care and watchfulness of a gardener nurturing a seed?

More than simply being a long time to give up things like soda or chocolate, Lent can be a time to nurture our faith by taking on life-giving practices like time with family, reading, prayer, and caring for others.

On **Sunday, February 21 from 2:30-3:30 p.m.**, you're invited to drive thru the church parking lot and receive an ash cross marked on paper; devotional resources and instructions for all ages, as well as your own small seed to tend.

**Please bring donations of boxed cereal for the food ministry at Iglesia Emanuel for our "donation station."**

Join us as we prepare for a season of cultivating and letting go. For more information, contact [Mitzi Lesher-Thomas](#) or [Lenore Champion](#).

## Lenten book study begins February 23!

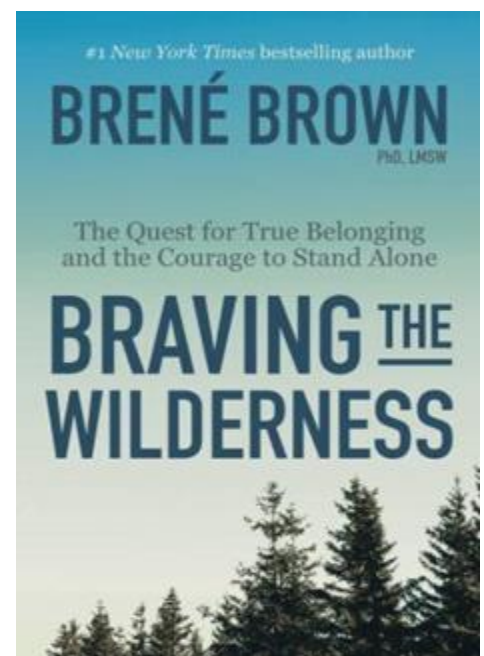
Brené Brown's  
*Braving the Wilderness*

We will read this seven-chapter book one chapter at a time as we make our way through Lent. Class will meet via Zoom on Tuesdays beginning at 6:15 p.m.

Here is a link to a summary of the book:

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/234254/braving-the-wilderness-by-brene-brown-phd-lmsw/>

If you would like your own personal copy of this book, contact [Mindy Douglas](#) on how to obtain a copy.



# Jesus Knows the Inmost Heart 427

Refrain

Bm Em D G Am7 Bm7 Em

Je - sus knows the in - most heart: noth - ing can be hid - den.

Bm Em D G Am7 Bm7 Em Fine

Je - sus knows the in - most heart: noth - ing can be hid - den.

Em Bm Am Em C Am Em

- 1 This our sin - ful hearts re - quire: flame of God's re - fin - ing fire,
- 2 Je - sus knows our deep - est fears, knows the pain of hid - den tears.
- 3 When our lives are in his hand noth - ing can his work with - stand;
- 4 So our faith will be re - stored by the word of Christ our Lord;

Em Em7 Am D7 Em Am7 Bm7 Em

to Refrain

work - ing in us day by day till the dross is burned a - way.  
 By his words of love and peace ev - ery heart can find re - lease.  
 his for - give - ness sets us free, saves us for e - ter - ni - ty.  
 for the warmth his love im - parts melts the ver - y hard - est hearts.

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator  
 Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director  
 Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff  
 Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate  
 Sybil King, Administrative Assistant



Mitzi Leshler-Thomas, Associate Pastor  
 Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator  
 Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music  
 John Weicher, Associate Pastor

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office:  
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