

Cranbury Presbyterian Church

22 South Main Street

Cranbury, NJ 08512

Ash Wednesday Service

February 22, 2012

7:30 P.M.



Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
February 22, 2012 - 7:30 P.M.

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

Toccata per l'Elevazione

Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643)

Organ

INROIT

“Have mercy on me, O God”
(Ps. 51: 1-2)

Donovan D. Klotzbeacher

The Chorale

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Rosanna Anderson

Blow the trumpet in Zion! Sound the alarm on the holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near.

Return to the Lord, your God, for the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

HYMN #466 (Hymnal)*

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

UNISON PRAYER* (Psalm 51)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, I have sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

HYMN #579 (Hymnal)*

“Gloria Patri”

THE PEACE*

Welcome and Invitation to Observe the Lenten Discipline

Friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate the redemption won for us through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in Christ. We begin this season by acknowledging our need for forgiveness and the mercy proclaimed in the Gospel. We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marks the repentance of this community. I invite you to observe Lent by self-examination and repentance, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 58: 1-12

pew Bible pgs. 688 - 689

ANTHEM

“Boundless Mercy”

arr. **Donovan D Klotzbecher**
The Chorale

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

pew Bible pgs. 5 - 6

SERMON

“Feasting on God’s Word”

Mr. Kurt Heineman

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN #85 (Hymnal)*

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

LITANY OF THE BEATITUDES

(see insert)

THE 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.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

PRAYER

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and repentance, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

As the music is played, those who wish to do so may come forward to receive the Imposition of Ashes in the form of a cross. It is a sign of frailty, repentance and renewal. The ashes used tonight are from palms used in worship on Palm Sunday. They were prepared by Lil Conley.

UNISON PRAYER

God of compassion, through your Son Jesus you reconciled us to yourself. Following his example of humility and obedience, may we follow you with willing hearts and serve one another in love by the power of your Holy Spirit. Accomplish in us, O Lord, the work of your salvation, that we may show forth your glory in the world. Bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection, we pray through our risen Lord and Savior. Amen.

HYMN #101 (Hymnal)* *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE

Basse de Trompette

Jean-François Dandrieu (1682-1738)
Organ

***THOSE WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

WELCOME to the First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury. If you are visiting for the first time, please fill out one of the cards in the pew and leave it with an usher at the end of the service. We invite you to make this your church home. Our Sunday worship service is at 10:30 a.m.

USHERING tonight are Joan Fraser and Carol Kientz.