

*First Presbyterian Church*  
*22 South Main Street*  
*Cranbury, NJ 08512*



*Ash Wednesday Service – March 1, 2017*  
*7:30 P.M.*

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Monday-Thursday)

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (Friday)

Phone: 609-395-0897

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Website: [www.cranburypres.org](http://www.cranburypres.org)

## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

*Voluntary in A Minor*

**John Stanley**  
Organ

INTROIT

*"Have mercy on me, O Lord"*

**Donovan Klotzbeacher**  
The Chorale

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Suzanne Schafer-Coates

The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
**slow to anger and abounding in love.**  
In the name of Christ, be reconciled to God.  
**This is the day of our salvation.**  
Let us worship God.

HYMN #396 (Hymnal)\*

*"O for a Closer Walk with God"*

UNISON PRAYER\*

**O God, you delight not in pomp and show, but in a humble and contrite heart. Overturn our love of worldly possessions and fix our hearts more firmly on you, that, having nothing, we may yet possess everything, a treasure stored up for us in heaven. Amen.**

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 58: 1-12

Rev. Hannah Lovaglio  
pew bible pgs. 688-689

ANTHEM

*"Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts"*

**Henry Purcell**  
The Chorale

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 51: 1-17

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, have I 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.**

SERMON

“You’re Invited”

Virginia Goss

### RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Rev. Lovaglio

HYMN #339 (Hymnal)\*

*“Be Thou My Vision”*

LITANY OF PENITENCE

Rev. Lovaglio

Let us Pray: **Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, with 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. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives, **we confess to you, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people, **we confess to you, O God.**

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, **we confess to you, O God.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work, **we confess to you, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us, **we confess to you, O God.**

Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, **accept our repentance, O God.**

For all the false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, **accept our repentance, O God.** For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us, **accept our repentance, O God.** Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us. **Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER (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.**

#### THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

##### PRAYER

Rev. Lovaglio

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 penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*As the music is played, those who wish to do so may come forward for the Imposition of Ashes. It is an ancient sign of frailty, repentance, and renewal. The ashes used tonight are from the palms used in worship on Palm Sunday.*

##### UNISON PRAYER

**Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, that we may show forth your glory in the world. By the cross and passion of our Savior, bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection. 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 #101 (Hymnal)\* *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*

##### CHARGE AND BLESSING\*

Ms. Goss

##### POSTLUDE

*Voluntary in G Minor*

**John Stanley**  
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 Pat Bohrs and Heidi Knowlton.