



Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lenten Season. It always falls six and a half weeks before Easter, thus beginning a time of holy preparation—this, the forty days leading up to Christ's Resurrection and renewal on Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday is a beautiful reminder of how a worshipping world is to reflect on Christ's death and the celebration of His resurrection during Holy Week.

Greeting and Opening Prayer

Dr. Christopher Hillman

Prelude

God So Loved the World

Mrs. Patricia Slomanski
arr. John Stainer

Call to Repentance

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Mrs. Betty Jo Prevatte

Quiet Reflection

Spoken Call to Worship

Mr. Stephen Prince

Leader: Get ready to return to the Lord! Place your trust in Him, and Him alone.

People: It is not always easy to return to the Lord; we have had our way for so long.

Leader: Blow the trumpet. Sound the alarm. Call the young and the old; tell everyone that the Lord is coming!

People: It is not easy to talk about the Lord to people who have already heard our preaching so many times.

Leader: Call for a fast!

People: Fasting is not easy; for we hunger for so many things.

Leader: Nobody said it would be easy. But we must return to the Lord because His coming to us is near!

People: We commit to turning from our old ways.

Leader: Nobody said it would be easy.

People: We will turn our lives over to the One who makes a way.

Leader: Nobody said it would be easy.

All: Nobody said it would be easy, but we must return to the Lord!

Hymn Response, 297

Search Me, O God

Congregation

Search me, O God, and know my heart today:

Try me, O Saviour, know my thoughts, I pray.

See if there be some wicked way in me;

Cleanse me from ev'ry sin and set me free.

Lord, take my life, for I would live for You;

Fill my poor heart with Your great love so true.

Take all my will, my passion, self, and pride;

I now surrender; Lord, in me abide.

Responsive Reading

Psalms 51:1-2, 6-7, 10-12, 17

Mrs. Donna Prince

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, because of Your unfailing love. Because of Your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins.

People: Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin.

Leader: For I was born a sinner—yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.

People: But You desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there.

Leader: Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

People: Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.

Leader: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and make me willing to obey You.

All: The sacrifice You desire is a broken spirit, You will not reject a heart that is broken and repentant for sin.

Quiet Reflection

Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Dr. Hillman

Hymn Response, No. 305 *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

Congregation

I have decided to follow Jesus;	The world behind me, the cross before me;
I have decided to follow Jesus;	The world behind me, the cross before me;
I have decided to follow Jesus;	The world behind me, the cross before me;
No turning back, no turning back.	No turning back, no turning back.

Concluding Reflection and Prayer

Dr. Hillman

Imposition of Ashes

We conclude our service by using the centuries old symbol of Ashes, which echoes the ancient practice of throwing ashes over one's head to signify repentance before God. In humility and repentance we offer ourselves in Christ's service.

Please exit in silence.



**First Baptist Church
412 North Madison Street
Whiteville, North Carolina**

Ministerial Staff

Dr. Christopher T. Hillman, Pastor

Support Staff

Mrs. Teresa Malpass, Ministry Assistant
Mrs. Dinah Reaves, Financial Ministry Assistant
Mrs. Patricia Slomanski, Organist

Church Office Hours 8:30 A.M.—4:30 P.M. Monday—Thursday

Phone: (910) 642-2139 Fax: (910) 642-5874

Web Site: www.fbcwhiteville.com

Email: office@fbcwhiteville.com

CCLI #2525192, CSPL #1973522