



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ALBEMARLE, NORTH CAROLINA
ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 17, 2021
6:30 P.M.**

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here;
 Come, bow before Him now, with reverence and fear:
 In Him no sin is found – we stand on holy ground.
 Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
 He burns with holy fire, with splendor He is crowned:
 How awesome is the sight – our radiant King of Light!
 Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
 He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace:
 No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him.
 Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

(First Presbyterian Church Worship Archive: May 15, 2016)

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who trust in you. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that truly repenting of our sins, and acknowledging our brokenness, we may receive from you full pardon and forgiveness. Amen.

HYMN 11

Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud

Aberystwyth

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALM READING

[*Psalm 51:1-17*](#)

Created by *The Skit Guys*

NEW TESTAMENT READING

[*Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*](#)

HOMILY

Reverend Drumheller

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Invitation

Silence for Reflection and Self-examination

LITANY OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

O God of life,

We confess the ways we turn away from the fullness of life that you offer.

(Silence)

God of love,

We confess the hatred we hold in our hearts.

(Silence)

God of compassion,

We confess our indifference to the hurts that surround us.

(Silence)

God of justice,

We confess that our lives are linked to oppressive systems.

(Silence)

God of peace,

We confess the violent movements of our hearts, the violent realities of our world.

(Silence)

Holy God,

We confess our sins to you.

(Silence for personal prayers of confession)

Hear the good news: Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Turn toward your God in the confidence that, through Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

God be praised. Amen.

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

The Ashes

Wondrous Love

David N. Johnson

Prayer After Imposition

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Ronald Arnatt

BURYING THE ALLELUIA

Leader: We heard an angel speak to Mary, and we sang *Alleluia*.

People: We saw Jesus heal a leper, and his gasp was *Alleluia*.

Leader: We have seen grace. We have seen good. We have shouted *Alleluia!*

People: But alleluia cannot always be our song.

Leader: We see Jesus betrayed and broken, and we hear no alleluia.

People: We see ourselves betrayed and broken, and we have no alleluia.

Leader: We know suffering. We see sadness. We shout out in silence.

People: Alleluia cannot always be our song.

Leader: In Lent, we journey towards the cross, and we leave behind our *alleluia*.

People: Today, we bury our alleluia, and silence fills its plate.

(Silence)

Leader: Silence will not always be our song.

People: On Easter, we will once again claim our *alleluia!*

Leader: We will hear that the tomb is empty, and we will shout *Alleluia!*

People: We will see our risen Lord, and he will look like *alleluia*.

Leader: But alleluia cannot always be our song.

People: Today, we bury our alleluia, and silence fills its plate.

(Silence)

HYMN 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Cwm Rhondda

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Love Unknown

Charles Callahan

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