



Lent

RETURN TO THE LORD
your God,
FOR HE IS
gracious and
MERCIFUL.

JOEL 2:13

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

*“a community of believers, called by God, led by the Holy Spirit
to know Christ and to make Christ known”*

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THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude “Holy God, Dona Nobis Pachim” Arr. Berry-Bennett
Organ and Piano Duet

Call to Worship

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,
bless God’s holy name.

**People: Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all God’s benefits;**

Leader: Who forgives all your sins, and heals all your infirmities;

**People: Who redeems your life from the grave,
and crowns you with mercy and loving kindness.**

*Hymn # 378 “Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

*Prayer of Confession (Psalm 51:1-17)

L: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**P: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

L: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**P: 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 judgement.**

L: Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner
when my mother conceived me.

**P: You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

L: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

P: Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

L: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

P: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

L: Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

P: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

L: Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

P: Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

L: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

P: For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt-offering, you would not be pleased.

L: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri

*Sharing of the Peace

Imposition of Ashes

Mr. Gene Artman

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Scripture

L: This is the story of our people

P: And what a story it is!

New Testament Scripture

L: This is the Word of the Lord

P: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“A Look Inside”

Mr. Randy Stear

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Affirmation of Faith *(The Apostles' Creed)*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Hymn # 486 "Have Thine Own Way, Lord!"

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer ("*...debts...and debtors...*")

Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word

Presentation of the Offering

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn # 436 "Grace Alone"

*Benediction

L: Go forth into the world in the strength of God's mercy,
to live and to serve in newness of life.

May Jesus Christ, the bread of Heaven, bless and keep you.

P: Amen.

L: May the Lamb of God who laid down His life for all
graciously smile upon you.

P: Amen.

L: May the Lord God order all your days and deeds in peace.

P: Amen. Thanks be to God!

*Postlude

*(*All who are able, please stand)*
