

REID MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

February 28, 2024

6:15 p.m.



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2261 Walton Way, Augusta, Georgia 30904  
706-733-2275      [reidchurcaugusta.org](http://reidchurcaugusta.org)

\*CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

Rev. Nadine Ellsworth-Moran

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, sing to him, and tell of all his wonderful works.

**Glory is his holy name; our hearts rejoice at the sound of it.**

Let us seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence without ceasing.

**In the wilderness he brought comfort in the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire;  
food in the form of manna and quail, even water from a stone.**

Great are his mercies and steadfast is his covenant made through Abraham and Jacob, through the generations, to all who follow in the path of Christ.

**Let us worship the Lord, Our God!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>2</sup>

Rev. Boyd Lien

**God of the sparse places, we find you at our crossroads and standing with us at the edge of canyons too vast to cross, we find you in the furthest depths of our shadows and we are bathed in the light of your day. Yet we are bold in our forgetfulness, enough to doubt you. You, who led your people through the wilderness, through a land of burning plains and jagged ravines, a land of drought and utter darkness, a land where no one travels safely without you. How can we be so bold to forget?**

## SILENCE

**Lord, do not give us over to our stubborn hearts, do not let us deceive ourselves into believing we know better, following our own schemes and devices that only lead into cold and empty places. Break our hearts, if you must, so that they may be healed. Turn us from our path if we have strayed, unburden us of our conceit that tells us "We can manage without you."**

## SILENCE

**You confront us with our idols. Idols we exchanged for your glory. Idols we lift up over our heads and parade down the streets; idols of dust, idols of air. And from the heavens we feel the shuddering of angels and hear the weeping of the saints who cry over our foolishness. Lord, forgive us for forsaking you.**

## SILENCE

**You have set before us the spring of living water and we have lifted cups full of sand to our lips instead. You have given us your unending presence and we have put limits around the time we will give to you. We have dug our own cisterns, broken cisterns, that cannot hold water rather than drink from the well of life.**

## DECLARATION OF PARDON

The God of Glory that is matchless and unending speaks forgiveness over you, draws you forth into life and peace, and makes real the hope that you, and all creation, be released from the bondage to sin and obtain the freedom he has offered through his son for us, his beloved children,

**Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 30:11-17; 31:1-4a

Rev. Ellsworth-Moran

\*HYMN 33

*Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show*

LLANFAIR

SCRIPTURE READING

John 12:36-43

Rev. Lien

SILENCE

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION<sup>3</sup>

### Invitation to the Table

Your name is written here; inscribed in the bread, poured in the cup. Your name is known here – God calls you to come. Come, to this table, sit beside me, he says. Come to this table and remember with me.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us lift up our hearts to the Lord.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### The Great Thanksgiving

...And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God has called us to journey for a season through the wilderness places; and so, as Jesus did before us, we will set out once more to wander in an uncomfortable landscape and wrestle with its challenges, that through the power and guidance of the Spirit, we may emerge ready to do the work of the Kingdom here and now.

For bread and wine, this place and this time,

**Thanks be to God.**

For the peace we are promised which the world won't destroy,

**Thanks be to God.**

For the hope of heaven on earth and the final song of joy,

**Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN 51

*To Abraham and Sarah*

LLANFYLLIN

BENEDICTION<sup>4</sup>

\*All who are able please stand

**Music**—Music is reprinted by permission through OneLicense.net #A-721337

<sup>1</sup> Based on Psalm 105

<sup>2</sup> Inspired by Jeremiah 2:4-13

<sup>3</sup> Source: Iona Worship—adapted for each service

<sup>4</sup> Written by Kate Bowler



**Hearing assistance.** Hearing aid wearers with a "T" (telecoil) setting can now hear the service broadcast directly through their hearing aids. Others desiring hearing assistance may check out a portable receiver / headset.

# Symbols of Lent

## Ashes

Like each symbol that we will introduce over the season of Lent, ashes are a physical “thing” representative of an idea or theological concept. As George Doyle describes it, “we find that physical objects and human actions, in our experience with them through our senses, can directly convey the grace of God, in their materiality. The meaning of the sacrament is not something arbitrarily imposed on the object from outside, but comes from within, as God makes use of the “thingness” of those objects to convey the grace of the sacrament.”

Ashes serve to remind us that from dust we have come and to dust we shall return, our mortality, as well as our connection to creation. Ashes remind us of the suffering of Christ and the waving palms that turned to cries for crucifixion. The ashes you will receive on your forehead or hands bear witness to the grace of Christ. The painting of the ash cross is also made with ashes mixed into the paint from palms burned from previous years here at Reid Memorial.

## Water

The Lenten season is a time when we delve a little deeper into our faith and understanding of our salvation through grace. One symbol for this is water - the waters of chaos pulled into creation; the waters of covenant; the waters of baptism; water turned to fine wine; water for washing hands and feet. We add water to our table this week to symbolize this death and rebirth, this cleansing, and this provision that all point to God’s unbound-ed grace.

## Purple

During the liturgical year, we utilize different colors symbolically. Lent is no different, and its associated color is purple for a few reasons. First, it was the color reserved for royalty under the Roman Empire because it was the most expensive of the dyes. We also recall that before his crucifixion, Jesus was mocked for being “King of the Jews” and a purple robe was briefly set upon him. Additionally, purple is a symbol of our sins and reminds us of our need to embody an attitude of penitence. It is also sometimes thought of as a “sorrowful” color and, therefore, appropriate to the season.