

First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, MI
Everybody's Church
Ash Wednesday Service, February 17, 2021, 7:00pm

Call to Worship

God sent Christ into the world
not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.

God's love endures forever.

God is our refuge and strength,
a present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear
though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though the waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

God's love endures forever.

Hymn

"What Wondrous Love is This"

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O
my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the
Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for
my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!
2. When I was sinking down, sinking down,
sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for
my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!
3. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will
sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I
am,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I
will sing;
while millions join the theme, I will sing!
4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on,
I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and
joyful be,
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing
on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.

Opening Prayer

Unison Prayer for Illumination

**God our helper,
by your Holy Spirit open our minds,
that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed,
we may be led into your truth
and be taught your will,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

First Reading

Genesis 2:4-7

Second Reading

Matthew 6:25-33

Meditation**Prayer of Confession**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

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

Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.

**And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment.**

For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

**Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that even my broken body may rejoice.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy Spirit from me.

**Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Invitation to the Observance of Lent**Imposition of Ashes****Hymn****“Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days”**

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days
for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins
and close by you to stay.
2. As you with Satan did contend
and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere,
in you to conquer sin.
3. And through these days of penitence,
and through this Passiontide,
yes, evermore, in life and death,
O Lord, with us abide.
4. Abide with us, till when this life
of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last.

Leave in Silence