

✠ ENTRANCE ✠

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.
(Matthew 18:20^{NRSV})



Prelude

***Opening Prayer**

***Call to Worship (Responsively)**

Return to God with all your heart, mind, and soul.

We turn our hearts to you, O God.

Return to this season called Lent - a season of fasting and prayer, reflection and introspection.

We turn our thoughts to you, O God.

Return to yourself, and to the treasure that is Christ living within you.

We turn our souls to you, O God.

Turning and returning, with heart, mind, and soul wide open,

Let us worship the God of love.

***Confession of Sins (in Unison)**

Our hearts are heavy when we turn away from you. We weep for the sins that separate us from love and from one another. We mourn for the lost innocence of lives gone astray. Lighten our hearts, O God. Cleanse our lives with your mercy, that our hearts may be restored and our lives reclaimed by your forgiveness and grace. In Christ's name, we pray.

***Words of Assurance**

This is the true treasure: Hearts that belong to God; Christ, who holds our hearts; and God, who holds our lives in the very heart of holiness. May your hearts be light, dear friends, for in the name of Christ, we are forgiven and made new!

Opening Hymn

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

#68 BH

✠ PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD ✠

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 51:1-17;

Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21;

PREPARING FOR ASH WEDNESDAY AND FOR LENT.

✠ RESPONSE TO THE WORD ✠

***Hymn**

"Are You Washed in the Blood"

#229 BH

Concerns and Prayers/Lord's Prayer

***Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

***Response**

"Glory Be to the Father"

Call to the Imposition of Ashes

As you are ready, come forward to receive a blessing of ashes. May these ashes be a symbol of our willingness to put to death all the things that are killing us. From the ashes, receive anew God's Easter promise of mercy and love.

Thanksgiving over the Ashes

Merciful God,

you ask us to rend our hearts, not our clothing. In the dust of these ashes, we come face-to-face with the shortcomings of our own humanity. Help us resist the temptation to wash away the dust, for we know that it was from the dust itself that you created us. Wash our hearts and mark us with ashes on the outside, that we might be made clean on the inside. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES (People are invited forward to receive the sign of the cross in ashes)

"Repent, believe the Gospel and be reconciled to God."

"For dust you are and to dust you shall return."

✠ SENDING FORTH ✠

***Closing Hymn**

"The Old Rugged Cross"

#230 BH

***Benediction**

**With hearts renewed, with lives restored,
we go forth to love and renew God's world.**

Amen

Postlude

In the Life of *STONEGATE* Family

Sunday, February 14, 2016 –
THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
 2:00 p.m. – MOM’S IN PRAYER MEETING
Tuesday, February 16, 2016
 6:30 p.m. – CARD MAKING CLASS
Wednesday, February 17, 2016
 6:00 p.m. – BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, February 18, 2016
 10:00 a.m. – LADIES BIBLE STUDY
Friday, February 19, 2016
 8:00 a.m. – FRIDAY Breakfast/Adult Bible Study,
Saturday, February 20, 2016
 9:30 a.m. – LIVING FREE CLASS
Sunday, February 21, 2016
 2:00 p.m. – MOM’S IN PRAYER MEETING



For Our Guests

We are so thrilled to have you worship with us today. We truly hope you are encouraged and inspired to grow closer to God as we worship the true and living God together.



Some prayers, litanies, and other worship resources or their parts used in bulletin, except as noted, come: "From The Abingdon Worship Annual 2015 Edition, edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. Copyright © 2014 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission." and others come from unrecognized, unnamed resources, or are our own ideas.

WORSHIP LEADERS

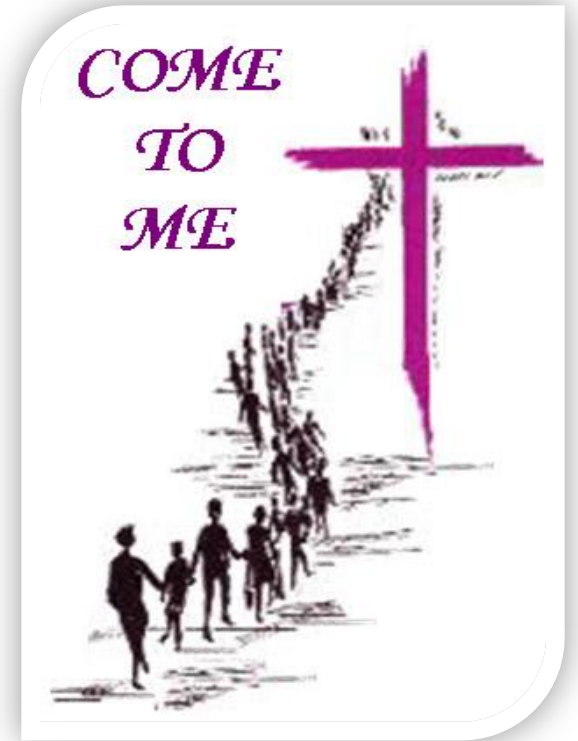
Rev. , Pastor
 , Pianist
 , Liturgist
 , Welcome and Announcements



* Please rise as you are able
 #156 RH = Page 156 Red Hymnal
 #156 BH = Page 156 Blue Hymnal
 Back Cover BH = Back Cover Blue Hymnal

THEME IDEAS

A heart that is centered on God is the call that flows through today's scriptures. God calls through the prophet Joel: "Return to me with all your hearts / . . . tear your hearts, / and not your clothing" (vv. 12-13). The Psalmist prays: "Create a clean heart for me, God" (v. 10). Following today's Epistle lesson, Paul writes to the Corinthians: "Our hearts are wide open" (v. 11), and Jesus reminds us: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (v. 21). As we enter the Lenten season, we are invited to change our hearts, refocus on Christ, and return again to the One who loves us first and best.



STONEGATE CHURCH

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN

Ash Wednesday Service, 6:30 p.m.; February 10, 2016



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