Gathering

Greeting

Glory be to the Father, & to the Son, & to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now
  and shall be: world without end. Amen.

*****Call to Worship**   Joel 2:1–2

Blow the Sopar in Zion;
  sound an alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
  for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near,
  a day of darkness and gloom,
  a day of clouds and thick darkness!

*****Hymn**   *Ah, Holy Jesus*   # **146**

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

  Source of all true wisdom,
    calm the troubled waters of our hearts,
    and still all other voices but your own,
    that we may hear and obey
    what you tell us in your Word,
    through the power of your Spirit. Amen.

Prophets   Joel 2:12-17

The Word of the Lord.   **Thanks be to God!**

Epistle   2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

The Word of the Lord.   **Thanks be to God!**

Response   Luke 23:42

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Gospel   Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon   *Practicing Your Righteousness*

The Observance of the Lenten Discipline

Psalm 51:1-17

Have mercy on me, O God,
  according to your loving-kindness;
  in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
Wash me
  through and through from my wickedness
  and cleanse me from my sin.
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.
Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
  a sinner from my mother's womb.
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 the body you have broken may rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins
  and blot out all my iniquities.
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.
I shall teach your ways to the wicked,
   and sinners shall return to you.
Deliver me from death, O God,
   and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
   O God of my salvation.
Open my lips, O Lord,
   and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,
   but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
   a broken and contrite heart,
   O God, you will not despise.

*Imposition of Ashes   Genesis 3:19
          Remember that you are dust,
          and to dust you shall return.

Sending

*Hymn *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart* # **182**

*Charge & Blessing   1 Thessalonians 5:23

   Postlude

          Rev. William Hudson: Pastor

* All May Stand

> Purge me
> with hyssop,
> and I
> shall be clean;
> wash me,
> and I shall be
> whiter
> than snow.
>
> Psalm 51:7, ESV

First Presbyterian Church
29 West Sixth Avenue
Williamson, West Virginia
fpcwilliamson.org

Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2018   6:30 PM Service