

The Presbyterian Church
on Edisto Island

Lent 2017
Stories of Stones



Ash Wednesday Service
"Written In Stone"
March 1, 2017
6:00 PM

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON EDISTO ISLAND

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Please use silence and meditation to begin our worship together.

Call to Worship (Joel 2, Ps 51)

*Leader: Blow the trumpet in Zion.
Sound the alarm on God's holy mountain!*

**People: The day of the Lord draws near –
A day of darkness and gloom.**

*Leader: Yet even now, who knows if God will relent, and turn
our calamity into joy.*

**People: Let us rend our hearts, not our clothing.
Let us return to the Lord,
who abounds in steadfast love.**

*Leader: Leave behind the ways that lead to death,
and return to God with all your heart!*

**People: Have mercy on us, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within us.**

Unison Prayer

**With open hearts, merciful God, we desire to live in your
grace. Speak to us with wisdom and mercy, with patience and
perseverance, that we may hear your call and mend our ways.
As we embark on this Lenten journey, walk with us and teach
us your love, that we might be signs of your grace. With
joyous hope, we pray. Amen.**

Hymn of Confession #301 *Lord Jesus, Think on Me* Southwell

Words of Assurance

Passing the Peace of Christ

Throw off the garments of death, and embrace the life God offers
us this day when we live as God intends. Let us share this joy as
we turn and pass the peace of Christ.

The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Hymn #396

O for a Closer Walk with God

Caithness

Prayer for Illumination

Reading from Scripture

Exodus 32:1-24

Lenten Meditation

Written In Stone

Psalter Reading

Psalm 103:8-18

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

The LORD remembers that we are dust.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him.

The LORD remembers that we are dust.

Far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

The LORD remembers that we are dust.

As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him. For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.

The LORD remembers that we are dust.

As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower in the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

The LORD remembers that we are dust.

But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

The LORD remembers that we are dust.

Prayer of Thanksgiving over the Ashes

Imposition of the Ashes

As able, please come forward to receive the mark of the cross on your forehead. The pastor can also come to your pew by notification to one of the ushers.

Closing Prayer (from Psalm 51)

Leader: Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and we will be whiter than snow.

People: Bathe us in your steadfast love.

Leader: Create in us a clean heart, O God, and help us hear the joy of your calling.

People: Restore to us the joy of your salvation.

Hymn #542 *All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night* TALLIS' CANON

Blessing Over the Meal and Sending

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for Soup and Cornbread.

Discussion Questions

1. What promises are most frequently broken in the world today? Which promise is most frequently broken by me?
2. What is it about the gods of this world that are so attractive?
3. What does it mean when we are referred to as "broken people?"