



Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 14, 2024



Edo Abdullah, *Repent*

This Is God's House. All Are Welcome.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*As the Prelude begins, we invite you into a period of quiet reflection as we prepare for worship.
Please **silence all electronic devices** and **do not take flash photos** during the service.*

PRELUDE

O Mensch, beweine dein Sünde groß
 ("O Mankind, Mourn Your Great Sins"), BWV 622
J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

* INVITATION TO AN OBSERVANCE OF LENT

The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston One: Gracious God,
(12 pm) you breathed into your creature of dust
The Rev. Sarah A. Speed (6:30 pm) the breath of life;
 you create us in your image
 to live in communion with you
 and with one another.
Call forth our prayers and devotion,
bless us by your Holy Spirit
that we may turn with confidence in your mercy
and follow Jesus Christ our Lord,
in whose name we pray.

All: Amen.

* HYMN 166

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike (12 pm)
Seminarian JY Lee (6:30 pm)

Joel 2:1-3 & 12-18

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the 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! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Fire devours in front of them, and behind them a flame burns. Before them the land is like the garden of Eden, but after them a desolate wilderness, and nothing escapes them.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

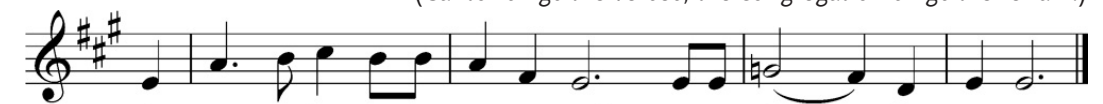
One: This is the Word of God; for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 51:1-18

(Cantor sings the verses; the congregation sings the refrain.)



The sac - ri-fice you ac-cept, O God, is a hum - ble spir-it.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
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 offenses,
And my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
So you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

Refrain

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
A sinner from my mother's womb.

Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
And would have me know wisdom deep within.

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
Wash me, and I shall be purer than snow. *Refrain*

Let me hear joy and gladness;
That the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins,
And blot out all my wickedness.

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

Cast me not away from your presence,
And take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation
And sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Let me teach your ways to offenders,
And sinners shall be restored to you.

Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
And my tongue shall sing of your righteousness. *Refrain*

O Lord, open my lips,
And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
A troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise. *Refrain*

Silent Reflection and Confession

SOLO *Pie Jesu from Requiem • Gabriel Fauré (1845–1924)*

<i>Pie Jesu Domine,</i>	Blessed Lord Jesus,
<i>Dona eis requiem.</i>	Grant them rest.
<i>Done eis requiem sempiternam.</i>	Grant them everlasting rest.

HOMILY **“The Resilient Spirit”**
The Rev. Werner Ramirez

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

You are invited to come forward as the Spirit moves you. Please tell the clergy person your name. The pastors will respond by making the sign of the cross on your forehead with ashes and invite you to observe a holy Lent by saying: “Remember your baptism and be faithful.” Throughout the time when people are receiving ashes, you are invited to sing the Taizé chant, “Jesus, Remember Me.”

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

LITANY OF INTERCESSION

<i>The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike (12 pm)</i>	One:	Jesus, remember us, when you come into your kingdom.
	All:	Hear our prayers.
<i>Seminarian Caroline Grindrod (6:30 pm)</i>	One:	For your Church around the world,
	All:	we ask new life.
	One:	For all who carry out ministries in your Church,
	All:	we ask grace and wisdom.
	One:	For those who have accepted disciplines of piety,
	All:	we ask inspired discipleship.
	One:	For Christians of every land,
	All:	we ask new unity in your name.
	One:	For Jews and Muslims and people of other faiths,
	All:	we ask your blessing.

One:	For those who cannot believe,
All:	we ask your faithful love.
One:	For rulers in this and every land,
All:	we ask your guidance.
One:	For those who suffer and know sorrow,
All:	we ask your peace.

* DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

Silence is kept.

The imposition of ashes is made available for all who wish to participate in this act of prayer, the sign of repentance at the start of the Lenten season. The rite is not given or intended as a show of piety, but rather as a form of corporate prayer in bodily form and act.

The ministry of music is offered by Isaac Lee, *organist* and Kate Theis, *soprano*

LENT & HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Join us for our Lenten sermon series, *I Press On: Stories of Sacred Resilience*. Sunday worship is at 9:30 am in Jones Auditorium & 11 am in the Sanctuary and on livestream at fapc.org/live.

THE RESILIENT SPIRIT

Ash Wednesday | February 14
The Rev. Werner Ramirez
12 pm Sanctuary & Livestream
6:30 pm Sanctuary

THE RESILIENT JESUS

First Sunday in Lent | February 18
The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston

THE RESILIENT LEADER

Second Sunday in Lent | February 25
The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston

THE RESILIENT RUTH

Third Sunday in Lent | March 3
The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston

THE RESILIENT APOSTLE

Fourth Sunday in Lent | March 10
The Rev. Sarah A. Speed

THE RESILIENT PATIENT

Fifth Sunday in Lent | March 17
The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston

THE RESILIENT CROWD

Palm Sunday | March 24
The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston

THE RESILIENT SERVANT

Maundy Thursday | March 28
The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike
6:30 pm, Sanctuary & Livestream

THE PASSION

Good Friday | March 29
12–3 pm | Sanctuary & Livestream

THE LIFE RESILIENT

Easter | March 31
The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston
9:30 am Sanctuary
11:15 am Sanctuary & Livestream

CONCERT

RENAISSANCE REFLECTIONS: MUSIC FOR LENT

The Fifth Avenue Chamber Choir

Ryan Jackson, director

Friday, March 22 • 7 pm, Sanctuary and livestream

The Fifth Avenue Chamber Choir performs highlights from the Renaissance era. At the heart of the program is the Mass for Four Voices by William Byrd, one of the period’s greatest masterpieces. Composed during the religious turmoil of Elizabethan England, the Mass showcases Byrd’s ability to express spiritual convictions through delicate strands of polyphony and evocative harmonies.

Purchase tickets at fapc.org/tickets.

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church



2024 Lenten Devotional

The Devotional features Scripture, poems, personal reflections, stories of faith, and words of prayer for each day of the Lenten season.

To receive the daily devotionals in your email, visit fapc.org/lent.

Support the Church

Scan this code using the camera on your smartphone and follow the instructions to make a secure donation to our ministries.

fapc.org/give



Building Hours

Mon • Thu • Fri

9 am – 5 pm

Tuesday • Wednesday

9 am – 8 pm

Saturday

8 am – 1 pm

Sunday

8 am – 2:30 pm



FAPCNYC



FAPC_NYC



FAPCinNYC



FAPC.ORG/LIVE

7 West 55th Street • New York, NY 10019