

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

First Presbyterian Church of San Leandro, California

March 2, 2022

PRELUDE

Toni DiCapua

Gethsemane *with* The Power of the Cross

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where
will my help come?

**Congregation: My help comes from the Lord, who made
heaven and earth.**

Leader: He will not let your foot be moved; he who
keeps you will not slumber.

**Congregation: He who keeps Israel will neither slumber
nor sleep. The Lord will keep us from all
evil; he will keep our lives.**

Leader: Come, let us worship God.

* **OPENING HYMN** (sung by our choral team)

No. 92

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**Loving God, we confess that we have been slow to
learn from you, and we have failed to obey you.
Forgive us for not being your faithful followers.
Create in us a clean heart, O God. Hear us now as
we silently confess our sins...**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: We are dust, and to dust we shall return.

**Congregation: Though our bodies be destroyed,
yet in flesh we shall see God!**

Leader: We present ourselves as living
sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God.

**Congregation: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

Children's Choir

"For the Things That I Do Wrong, O Lord"...Bedford
(previously recorded, CCLI #20405356)

SCRIPTURE READING – Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

REFLECTIONS ON LENT

Anne Swanson

*HYMN (sung by our choral team)

No. 81

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

George Swanson

(Music: The Lamb of God)

RESPONSIVE READING

- Leader: In times of great sorrow and heartache,
God's people of old would wear their grief.
With sackcloth and ashes their outward
form reflected the reality of their hearts.
- Congregation: Brokenness cannot be hidden away.**
- Leader: Tonight we admit the brokenness of our
hearts, and we wear the sign of our
brokenness: ashes.
- Congregation: Our brokenness cannot be hidden away.**
- Leader: Yet we know that brokenness is only part of
the story. There's more. The ashes trace
the shape of the cross – the cross that
removes our sin, heals our brokenness, and
makes us whole.
- Congregation: Our brokenness is not forever; we are
restored in the cross.**

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 51

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love. According to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions.

Congregation: Create in me a clean heart, make my spirit right and true.

Leader: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Congregation: Guide me with your wisdom, Lord As I seek to follow you.

Leader: Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight. So you are right in judging me.

Congregation: God of creation and Lord of my life, show me how I can be more like you in all that I do, in word and thought and deed.

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

Congregation: Cleanse my heart, O God, from sin; Make my spirit pure within.

***CLOSING HYMN** "Jesus Loves Me!" No. 304

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: All those who are in Christ are a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Congregation: Now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who sacrificed his life for us, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with each one of you. Amen.

POSTLUDE "How Great the Father's Love for Us"