

# *First Presbyterian Church*

Whiteville,  
North Carolina

"To be a light in our  
community reflecting  
Christ's love and  
compassion..."

*Ash Wednesday*  
February 14, 2018



Rev. Dr. Joseph D.  
Washburn  
&  
Rev. Mark Fisher

## *Gathering Around the Word*

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Joseph Washburn

Silent Prayer and Meditation

Call to Worship

\*Hymn of Praise

442

**"Just As I Am, Without One Plea"**

Opening Prayer

Rev. Mark Fisher

Scripture Reading

Rev. Mark Fisher

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Call to Confession

Rev. Joseph Washburn

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Joseph Washburn

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be  
reconciled to God.

**We confess that when we practice our piety  
we want others to know it.**

We urge you also not to accept the grace of God  
in vain.

**We confess the propensity to focus on how  
much we give of ourselves.**

For our sake God made him to be sin who knew  
no sin.

**We confess our prayers lack sincerity unless  
there is something we want.**

So that in him we might become the  
righteousness of God.

**The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken  
spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God,  
you will not despise.**

The Declaration of Forgiveness

Rev. Mark Fisher

Choral Anthem	“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”	Choir
Scripture Lesson	This is the Word of the Lord; <b>Thanks be to God!</b>	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Meditation	“Sound the Alarm!”	Rev. Joseph Washburn
The Invitation		Rev. Mark Fisher

(A time of silence is held for reflection and self-examination)

The Prayer of Preparation Rev. Joseph Washburn  
**Loving God, in the beginning you created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The Imposition of the Ashes Rev. Mark Fisher & Rev. Joseph Washburn

*Members of the congregation are invited to come to the communion table to receive the imposition of ashes. The pastor will mark your forehead with ashes by placing a finger into the bowl and tracing the cross on your forehead.*

\*Response **“Breathe On Me Breath of God”** **286**

The Prayer of Commitment Rev. Mark Fisher  
 Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
**That we may show forth your glory in the world.**  
 By the cross and passion of our Savior,  
**Bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection. Amen.**

Hymn **“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”** **166**

Blessing & Benediction Rev. Mark Fisher & Rev. Joseph Washburn

Postlude

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

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