LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, ...

MUSIC Joshua Allen

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Kelly Weaver

Your generosity in time, talent and treasure is witness to our deeply held values.

Jesus says: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Kelly Weaver

You have shown us, O God, the sacrifice that you desire. Now use these gifts—and use our lives—to liberate the oppressed, to break the bonds of injustice, to feed the hungry, welcome the poor, and unite the human family; all in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

— Sending —

BLESSING AND CHARGE

Rev. Michele R. Goff

May the steadfast love of God, the abundant grace of Jesus Christ, and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit be with you this day and always. *Amen!*

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus: If any wish to be my disciples let them take up the cross and follow me. *Amen.*

POSTLUDE Joshua Allen



Serving God,

Honoring Creation,

Embracing Differences

Henderson, Texas



First Presbyterian Church Henderson First Sunday in Lent February 21, 2021



Bold italic letters indicate congregational responses.

Service for the Lord's Day — Gathering —

PRELUDE Joshua Allen

WELCOME Rev. Michele R. Goff

OPENING SENTENCES

Liturgist, Kelly Weaver

We have entered the season of Lent, a time to examine our hearts and our lives and journey with Christ through the suffering of the world.

Let us lift up our souls to our merciful God

and humble ourselves in God's service.

God has marked us as beloved dust

and called us together to worship.

MUSIC Joshua Allen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Kelly Weaver

CONFESSION

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

In the season of Lent, O God, we say lofty words about renewing our spiritual disciplines, journeying with you to the cross, or denying ourselves material wants for the good of the soul. Forgive us, O God, if our actions are in vain: if we are concerned with the good of the soul rather than the good of your people; if we have twisted this season of penitence into a reason for praise or judgment; if we are so preoccupied with the sins of the world that we cannot recognize and confess the sins of our own lives. Forgive us, O God, and wash us in your mercy.

Forgive us, O God, and free us to try again.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Michele R. Goff

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

— Word —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Kelly Weaver

SCRIPTURE Rev. Michele R. Goff

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

Genesis 9:8-17

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

1 Peter 3:18-22

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Mark 1:9—15

We proclaim Christ crucified—the wisdom and power of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Learning to Struggle"

Rev. Michele R. Goff

ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE

— Response —

MUSIC Joshua Allen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Kelly Weaver

Out of the ashes, up from the dust we bring our prayers to God, saying: In your steadfast love, O Lord, *have mercy on us.*

God of all mercy, we pray for the church . . . Bring us through every obstacle and trial so that we might be a living sign of the new life you offer to all.

In your steadfast love, O Lord, have mercy on us.

God of all mercy, we pray for the world . . . Put an end to war and destruction. Let the people of every nation learn your ways of grace and peace. In your steadfast love, O Lord, have mercy on us.

God of all mercy, we pray for this community . . . Help us to share our food with the hungry, to welcome the homeless, clothe the naked, and never to hide from neighbors in need. In your steadfast love, O Lord, *have mercy on us.*

God of all mercy, we pray for loved ones . . . Look with healing and compassion on those who are troubled by sickness or sin. Deliver them from every evil. In your steadfast love, O Lord, *have mercy on us*.

Restore in us, O God, the joy of your salvation; renew and sustain our spirits, so that we may live according to your will; through Jesus Christ, our hope and strength. *Amen.*

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