



# ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 14, 2018 | Ash Wednesday  
Noon

## GATHERING

VOLUNTARY  
WELCOME

Steven B. Blackmon  
Sarah Chancellor-Watson

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*) *John 3:17; Psalm 46:1-3*

Let us worship God.

**God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.**

God's love endures forever.

**God is our refuge and strength, and present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY (*unison*)

**Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness, and strengthen us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy; in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

\*HYMN 215

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

WONDROUS LOVE

## THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

*Joel 2:1-2*

SECOND READING

*2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10*

GOSPEL READING

*Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

MEDITATION

Donald R. Frampton

INVITATION TO LENTEN OBSERVANCE

PSALM 51

LITANY OF PENITENCE

IMPOSITION OF ASHES (*responsive*)

Almighty God, you have 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 only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

*Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.*

LITANY (*responsive*)

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.**

## SENDING

\*HYMN 166

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

ST. FLAVIAN

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING (*responsive*)

May the God of peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being – spirit, soul, and body – free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

God in peace and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*VOLUNTARY

*\*Please stand as you are able*

*Large print hymnals and hearing devices are available. Please see an usher.*



## ASH WEDNESDAY AND THE SEASON OF LENT

**Q: *I thought that Ash Wednesday services were only for Roman Catholics?***

A: Ash Wednesday services are important and meaningful for all Christians. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season of Lent: a 40 day period of discipline and prayer, as we prepare to encounter the joyful mysteries of Easter. Easter was traditionally a time to reaffirm our baptisms and live out our thanksgiving for the gift of our new life in Christ.

**Q: *Why do we place ashes on our foreheads?***

A: The imposition of ashes is a symbolic way to remind all believers that we are finite creatures, totally reliant on a gracious God for real and eternal life. The sign of the cross is marked on the forehead to focus our attention inwardly on who we are, as beings created and sustained by God.

**Q: *What is the 40-day season of Lent really about?***

A: In the early church, the season was a time of preparation and study for those who were to be baptized at Easter. Baptism was offered only on Easter day each year. Today, Lent is a time to attend especially to our inner lives, often using the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and acts of service for our neighbors. It is not about increasing attention on ourselves, but a time to focus our attention on God's plan for us and our world. During Lent we remember that we are joined to Christ's life and death through our baptism. Our baptism unites us to Christ, a union that we now seek to live into more fully. When we take Lent seriously, the Holy Spirit works through our hearts, minds and practices to focus our attention on our response to Christ's mercy, grace and salvation.

## LENT AND HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

Over the next 40 days of Lent, whether you are giving something up or adding something to your spiritual routine, do not do it alone. We are meant to practice spiritual disciplines in community, for the encouragement and building up of one another. Let us together prepare our hearts for the mysteries and wonder of Easter.

**Sundays in Lent**, February 18 through March 25

Join us for worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. for all ages.

**Palm Sunday Worship**, March 25

8:30 a.m. - Chapel Service with Communion

10:30 a.m. - Sanctuary Service to feature Mozart's *C-Minor Mass*, performed by Chancel Choir and Orchestra; All children welcome to join palm procession

**Maundy Thursday Service** with Communion, March 29 | 7:30 p.m. | Chapel

**Good Friday Service**, March 30 | 12:00 p.m. | Chapel

**Easter Sunday**, April 1 | 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary

Two identical worship services, each beginning with adorning of the cross with flowers



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1545 STATE STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70118 | 504-897-0101 | [WWW.SCAPC.ORG](http://WWW.SCAPC.ORG) | [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SCAPCNOLA](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SCAPCNOLA)

For more information on our beliefs, missions, ministries, programs, and staff contacts, visit [www.scapc.org](http://www.scapc.org).