

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DEFIANCE
February 14, 2024 – Ash Wednesday

501 Washington Avenue, Defiance, OH 43512
419-782-2781 www.1presby.com

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DEFIANCE.

As you enter this holy space, please enter with reverence, respecting those who are preparing for worship.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER

L: "Forgive our sins as we forgive", you taught us, Lord to pray.

P: But you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

L: How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart?

P: We brood on wrongs and will not let bitterness depart.

L: In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:

P: What trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!

L: Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease.

P: Then, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.

CHORUS #466 COME AND FILL OUR HEARTS WITH YOUR PEACE (Sing 4 times)

SCRIPTURE READINGS ISAIAH 58:1-12 AND MATTHEW 6: 1-18

HOMILY ENTERING THE FOURFOLD PATH OF FORGIVENESS

THE INVITATION TO LENTEN PRACTICE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (ADAPTED FROM PSALM 51)

SILENT MEDITATION

On the forgiveness you need and/or the forgiveness you need to give.

CHORUS #471

LORD HEAR MY PRAYER (Both stanzas)

L: You are the Lord, giver of mercy.

P: You are the Christ, giver of mercy.

L: You are the Lord, giver of mercy.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (from II Corinthians 5 & 6)

RECEIVING THE ASHES

As you come forward to receive ashes, please also have in mind your Lenten intention. Upon receiving the ashes, light a votive, place it on the table and take a journal and a stone for the Four-Fold Path of Forgiveness journey.

CLOSING PRAYER

CHORUS #205 UBI CARITAS

(Please sing the English and Latin stanzas)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE