

*Hymn

*They'll Know We are Christians
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored*

Chorus: *And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love*

*Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land
(Chorus)*

*We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride
(Chorus)*

*All praise to the Father from whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son
All praise to the Spirit who makes us one
(Chorus)*

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

Beautiful Things

Gungor

First Presbyterian Church



Worship Leaders

Senior Pastor
Parish Associate
Director of Music
Organist

Brent O. Johnston
Judy Conners
Steve Bixler
Mark Sweeney

**March 6, 2019
7:00 p.m.**

**525 North Broadway • Wichita, Kansas 67214 • (316) 263-0248
www.firstchurchwichita.org**

March 6, 2019

Ash Wednesday

7:00 p.m.

Prelude

Land of Rest

Wilbur Held

Greetings

***Call to Worship**

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

People: **God's love endures forever.**

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a 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.

People: **God's love endures forever.**

All: ***Let us worship God!***

***Hymn**

The Glory of These Forty Days

No. 87

Opening Prayer

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.**

First Reading

Isaiah 58: 1-12

Anthem

God So Loved the World

John Stainer

*God so loved the world, that He sent His only begotten Son
That who so believeth in Him should not perish but have
everlasting life.*

*For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world,
But that the world through Him might be saved.*

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Sermon "Lenten: A Journey of Transformation with Jesus"

The Rev. Dr. Brent O. Johnston

Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline

Invitation to the Lenten Journey of Transformation

Friends, we begin this journey with Jesus who set his face towards Jerusalem.

What awaited him was adulation from the poor and powerless and rejection by the rich and powerful.

This rejection would likely involve death and yet Jesus still made his way to Jerusalem and so must we if we are to be transformed from fear to faith, from hate to love, from guilt to forgiveness.

Like all transformations this means death to the old ways of living to fully embrace the new.

Like the hungry caterpillar who must eat and eat before she goes into the chrysalis to die and be reborn into a beautiful butterfly, so must we during these 40 days feed upon the Word for the Word to transform us into the image of Christ—beautifully transformed by Christ.

So much so that we can say with Paul, "If any is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old is past and gone. Behold all things are new" (2nd Corinthians 5:17).

So, I invite you to turn in your caterpillar (if you have them) and receive the ashes upon your forehead as a sign of your willingness to die with Christ on Good Friday and be raised with him on Easter Sunday. And receive a beautiful butterfly as confirmation that what God promises always comes true. When you are ready come forward to begin the Lenten Journey to be transformed by Christ.

(Two stations will be waiting to receive the caterpillar, receive the ashes, and receive the butterfly)

Pastoral Prayer