



Seeking the peace and well-being of the city

March 2, 2022 12:15 p.m.



GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

PRAYER

Dear God,

**Today we arrive at Ash Wednesday
and the beginning of this Lenten journey.**

**We sign with a cross - ashes on our bodies to remind us
that we are of this earth and that one day we will return to dust.**

**We are marked with the cross and ashes,
placed on a vessel that houses the Holy Spirit —
this earthen vessel is the very presence of God
made visible in our acts of love**

and in the creativity within our human spirits.

**Bless us as we begin our Lenten journey
through Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

***HYMN**

#386 Lord Jesus Think on Me

SOUTHWELL

Em Bsus B Em G/B C D G

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, with care and woe op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that when this life is past

G Dsus D C/E D7/F# G G/B D G D Em Bsus B Em

from earth-born pas-sions set me free, and make me pure with - in.
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be, and taste your prom-ised rest.
through dark-ness and per - plex - i - ty point to the heav-en-ly way.
I may th'e - ter - nal bright-ness see and share your joy at last.

WORDS: Synesius of Cyrene (ca. 375-430); tr. Allen W. Chatfield (1808-1896)
MUSIC: William Damon's *Psalms*, 1579

SOUTHWELL
S.M.

PRAYER FOR A TIME OF TURNING ROUND

Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

**We have many treasures on earth that we hold too dearly;
that we withhold from others in need.**

**When we sin against neighbor,
condone injustice,
and quarrel with one another,
we sin against you.**

Forgive us, we pray, for we are broken in spirit.

**Do not see us for our faults,
and do not go away from us.**

**Keep us always in your presence
so that we may be restored to the joy of your salvation.
Sustain in us a willing spirit to treasure what you desire;
then our hearts will be opened in joy and gladness.**

In Jesus Christ, our Treasure, we pray.

Amen.

(Silence for personal confession and reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

FIRST READING

Psalm 103:1-17

Response to the reading: **“Thanks be to God”**

***HYMN**

#506 I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

WALK WITH ME

Unison
N.C.

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me; I want
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; in my
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me; when I'm in

Je - sus to walk with me; all a - long my pil - grim
tri - als, Lord, walk with me; when my heart is al - most
trou - ble, Lord, walk with me; when my head is bowed in

jour - ney, Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
break - ing, Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
sor - row, Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

WORDS and MUSIC: African-American spiritual

WALK WITH ME
Irregular

SECOND READING

Matthew 6:25-34

Response to the reading: **“Thanks be to God”**

WORDS OF REFLECTION

Rev. Jeremy Keay

THE WISDOM OF ASH

**All: There is a wisdom in ash,
that we need so much,
but seldom hear.**

One: It's the wisdom of grief,
that reminds us of our mortality,
and that life is more than this dust can contain.

**All: It's the wisdom of confession,
that brings our darkness out of hiding,
and opens the windows to Light.**

One: It's the wisdom of repentance,
that stops us in our tracks,
and charts the way to Love.

**All: There's a wisdom in ash,
and we welcome it, Jesus,
thankful for the renewing gifts it brings.**

Amen.

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IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

Our ancestors in the faith
used ashes as a sign of our repentance,
a symbol of the uncertainty and fragility
of human life.

Like them,
we have tasted the ashes of hopelessness;
we have walked through the ashes
of our loss and pain;
we have stood knee-deep
in the ashes of our brokenness.

God of our lives,
out of the dust of creation
you have formed us and given us life.
May these ashes not only be a sign
of our repentance and death,
but reminders of your grace and mercy.

~ written by Thom Shuman

A period of silence will follow. You can receive the ashes in two ways: Receive the sign of the cross in ashes on your forehead or hand from the Ministry Staff; or you may self-annoint with the sign of the cross placed on your forehead or hand.

The ashes are made from palm branches used at FBC at the Palm Sunday service last year and the ashes are mixed with oil.

***HYMN**

#257 What Wondrous Love Is This
(Sing verses 1 & 2)

WONDRIOUS LOVE

Dm Am C/G Em Dm F C Dm C F

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

C/G E G/D Am/C G/B Am G/B C Dm C/E F C/G F C/E

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down; when I was sink - ing
God and to the Lamb I will sing! To God and to the
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm

Dm C/E Am/C G/B C Dm Am Em/G Dm/F C

this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
down be - neath God's right-eous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
Lamb, who is the great "I AM," while mil-lions join the theme, I will
free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

Dm C F C E G Am G Am G C Dm

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on!

WORDS: Appalachian folk hymn
MUSIC: *Southern Harmony*, 1835

WONDROUS LOVE
12.9.12.12.9.

BLESSING FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

So let the ashes come as beginning and not as end;
the first sign but not the final.
Let them rest upon you as invocation and invitation,
and let them take you the way that ashes know to go.
May they mark you with the memory of fire
and of the life that came before the burning:
the life that rises and returns and finds its way again.
See what shimmers amid their darkness,
what endures within their dust.
See how they draw us toward the mystery
that will consume but not destroy,
that will blossom from the blazing,
that will scorch us with its joy.
~ *written by Jan L. Richardson*

We are grateful for those who serve with us today:
Video & Sound Technician - Evan Adnams

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