

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

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

Psalms 103:1-17

Response to the reading: "Thanks be to God"

*HYMN

#506 I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

WALK WITH ME

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

WONDROUS LOVE

(Sing verses 1 & 2)

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