



*Seeking the peace and well-being of the city*

February 22, 2023 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  $\frac{G}{B}$  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  $\frac{C}{E}$   $\frac{D7}{F\#}$  G  $\frac{G}{B}$  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**

Isaiah 58:1-12

Pages 763-764, 1st half of NRSV Bible

Response to the reading: **"Thanks be to God"**

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**\*HYMN**

**#506 I Want Jesus to Walk With Me**

**WALK WITH ME**

*Unison*  
N.C.                      Dm     $\frac{A7}{E}$     Dm    A7                      Dm    Am    Dm                      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

F     $\frac{C7}{G}$     F     $\frac{A7}{E}$     Dm     $\frac{A7}{C\#}$     A7                      Dm                       $\frac{C9}{E}$     C7

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

Dm     $\frac{Dm7}{C}$     Bb    C7                      Dm    Bb    Gm7    A7                      Dm    Gm6    Dm

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 6:1-6

Pages 5-6, 2nd half of NRSV Bible

Response to the reading: "Thanks be to God"

**WORDS OF REFLECTION**

Rev. Dr. Ryan Sato

## **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)

WONDROUS LOVE

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

**One:** So let the ashes come as beginning and not as end;  
the first sign but not the final.

**Many:** Let them rest upon us as invocation and invitation,  
and let them take us in the way that ashes know to go.

**One:** May they mark us 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.

**ALL:** 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:

Pianist - Nathan Olanday;

FBC Ministry Staff: Evelyn Grieger, Jeremy Keay, Ryan Sato, Dawn Stiles

Video & Sound Technician - Evan Adnams

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