

February 14, 2024 12:15 p.m.



GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Merciful God,
we confess that we are a rebellious people,
and we fall short short of the mark
as we seek to put your heart on display.
We do not love our neighbours as we love ourselves,
we clothe ourselves in self-righteousness
rather than repentance.
The world looks at us and asks:
“Is that the way to follow God?”
Forgive us, O God.
Humble our rebellious hearts
and restore in us the joy and the light
of your salvation.
Save us and remind us of our belovedness
Amen.
(Silence for personal confession and reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

FIRST READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Pages 943, 944, 1st half of NRSV Bible
Response to the reading: “Thanks be to God”

*HYMN

#506 I Want Jesus to Walk With Me WALK WITH ME

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10 Page 191, 2nd half of NRSV Bible
Response to the reading: “Thanks be to God”

WORDS OF REFLECTION

Rev. Jeremy Keay

*HYMN

#398 O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus EBENEZER

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-anoint 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

WORDS OF 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:

Accompanist: Jerrold Eilander

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

Video & Sound Technician - Evan Adnams

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