



Seeking the peace and well-being of the city

February 14, 2024 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

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

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

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)

FIRST READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Pages 943, 944, 1st half of NRSV Bible

Response to the reading: "Thanks be to God"

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*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

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.

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

Em $\frac{Em}{G}$ B C Am6 B7 Em G D $\frac{B}{D\#}$ Em

1 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, vast, un - mea - sured,
2 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus—spread his praise from
3 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, love of ev - ery

Am B7 Em $\frac{Em}{G}$ B C Am6 B7 Em G D

bound-less, free! Roll - ing as a might - y o - cean in its
shore to shore! How he loves us, ev - er loves us, chang-es
love the best! 'Tis an o - cean vast of bless - ing, 'tis a

$\frac{B}{D\#}$ Em Am B7 Em G $\frac{G}{B}$ Dsus D Em $\frac{Em}{G}$ Am6 B

full - ness o - ver me! Un - der - neath me, all a - round me,
nev - er, nev - er - more! How he watch - es o'er his loved ones,
ha - ven sweet of rest! O the deep, deep love of Je - sus—

is the cur - rent of thy love— lead - ing on - ward,
 died to call them all his own; how for them he's
 'tis a heaven of heavens to me; and it lifts me

lead - ing home - ward, to thy glo - rious rest a - bove!
 in - ter - ced - ing, watch - ing o'er them from the throne!
 up to glo - ry, for it lifts me up to thee!

Chords: Em, D, Am7, C, D, Em, Am, C, B7, C, Em, G, B, C, Am6, B7, Em, G, D, G, C, Am, B7, Em

WORDS: Samuel Trevor Francis (1834-1925)
 MUSIC: Thomas J. Williams (1869-1944)

EBENEZER
 8.7.8.7.D

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.

~ Copyright © John van de Laar

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

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "What Wondrous Love Is This". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the melody and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The time signature is 2/2. Above the treble staff, the following chords are indicated: Dm, Am, C/G, Em/G, Dm/F, C, Dm, C, F. The lyrics are written below the treble staff and are numbered 1 through 4. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with quarter and half notes. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

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

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 Grieger, Jeremy Keay, Ryan Sato, Dawn Stiles

Video & Sound Technician - Evan Adnams

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