



Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust and to
dust you shall return.*

March 2, 2022
7:00 pm

PRELUDE “Dust and Ashes”

WELCOME

THE TRADITION OF ASH WEDNESDAY

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

INTROIT “Change My Heart, O God”

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

There are so many voices in our lives, God,
telling us that we're not good enough,
that we need to change who we are,
that we have to earn the love we need.
And they hold power because they're not completely wrong;
we know the regrets, guilt and shame that we carry
from not living as our best selves,
the selves we want to be.

*And so we come here in search of forgiveness
and the strength to take hold of the life we long for;
We come seeking to embody the irrepressible qualities
that can carry us through all life's unexpected joys and sor-
rows;
And we come to be reminded of who we really are:
not just dust, but stardust made in your image.
Receive our worship, O God,
speak to our hearts,
and remind us of who we really are,
and of who we can become.*

Amen.

HYMN "Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door"

Refrain:

***Somebody's knockin' at your door,
Somebody's knockin' at your door,
O sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's knockin' at your door?***

***Can't you hear him?
Somebody's knockin' at your door,
Can't you hear him?
Somebody's knockin' at your door.
O sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's knockin' at your door?***

Refrain:

***Jesus calls you.
Somebody's knockin' at your door,
Jesus calls you.
Somebody's knockin' at your door.
O sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's knockin' at your door?***

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

On this Ash Wednesday we gather,
taking a moment to confess the times
we haven't lived from our best selves,
acknowledging our mortality.
***And we become aware of the areas which we want to improve,
the places we need to heal.***

When we look at our story so far,
it is easy to see the times when we reacted harshly,
the times when we were cruel and kept love from another.
***We are sorry for sinking into our worst selves
and finding it too comfortable.***

You have shown us, O God, that we are more than dust;
you call us friends,
and you value who we are more than we can imagine.
***Thank you for making us aware of the goodness within us,
for reminding us of our unique gifts.***

We long to live more fully into the image you have of us.
***Teach us to embrace your opinion of us
and your love for us,
And teach us to share your unconditional love with those around
us, so we may show them how valuable they are to you.
Amen.***

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “Sing Praises” (3 times)

***Sing praises, all you peoples,
sing praises to the Lord.
Sing praises, all you peoples,
sing praises to the Lord!***

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

God, you have given us glimpses of what we can be,
you have reminded us that we are more than dust;
we are stardust.

***Thank you for revealing
what we are often unable to see.***

These qualities within us are irrepressible,
they lift us out of our worst and carry us through tough times.
***And they invite us to live our fullest and most connected lives,
filled with wonder, goodness, beauty and truth.***

We ask for the strength to resist the temptation
to listen to the voices that say we are worthless.
May we remember the value that we have in you.

We think of those who still struggle to see their worth,
who still believe the voices that reduce their value.
***May we be those positive voices that shine light,
and speak life into their lives.
And may we all live more fully into our stardust truths.
Amen.***

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “Lord Jesus Christ” (3 times)

*Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let not my doubts and my darkness speak to me.
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let my heart always welcome your love.*

ANTHEM “My Song is Love Unknown”

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 58:3-12

“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

ASH WEDNESDAY MESSAGE “A Vision of Our Best Selves”

MEDITATION AND CONFESSION

APPLICATION OF ASHES

PRAYER OF THE PENITENT

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors.

In this season of repentance, restore to us the joy of our salvation and strengthen us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy, in Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN "Without Seeing You"

Refrain:

*Without seeing you, we love you;
Without touching you, we embrace;
Without knowing you, we follow;
Without seeing you, we believe.*

*We return to you deep within,
Leave the past to the dust.
Turn to you with tears and fasting,
You are ready to forgive.*

Refrain:

*For you are our shepherd,
There is nothing that we need.
In green pastures we will find our rest,
Near the waters of peace.*

Refrain:

THE BENEDICTION

THE IRISH BLESSING

*May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be ever at your back,
May the sunshine warm upon your face,
And the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, and until we meet again,
May the God who loves us all
Hold you in the palm of His hand.*

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Dust and Ashes

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Change My Heart, O God

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Sing Praises

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Lord Jesus Christ

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