



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

**Ash Wednesday Worship**

March 5, 2025

7:00 pm

Please join in the worship liturgy by reading the sections in ***bold italics***.

\* - Please rise in body or in spirit

**FOR CONTEMPLATION**

“The story of Lent, the story of our faith, is a story of messy middles and nuanced surprises. So, this Lent, we are remembering that faith is more complex than this or that, black or white, true or false storytelling. This Lent we are wading into the middle of the sacred texts to find God and to stretch our own understanding beyond the binaries our world so often gives.

Welcome to an in-between Lent. This is the light before the dawn.”

**Rev. Sarah Speed**

**PRELUDE “What Wondrous Love is This”**

**COMMUNITY GATHERS**

**THE TRADITION OF ASH WEDNESDAY**

**THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**INTROIT “Come and Find the Quiet Center”**

**THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

If you have days when you feel a little bit lost and a little bit found,  
***Then you are in the right place.***

If you have days when you are desperate for rest and eager to grow,  
***Then you are in the right place.***

If you have days when your prayers could be both shouts and silence,  
***Then you are in the right place.***

God meets us here, in the messy middle of our lives.  
***So, we can bring our full selves into this service and into this season.***

With God’s help it will be so.  
***Let us worship our all-loving, ever forgiving God.***



## HYMN "Purify My Heart"



Pur - i - fy my heart, O Fa - ther;  
 Turn my heart a - way from an - ger;  
 Turn my heart toward those who love me;  
 Turn my heart toward truth, O Fa - ther;  
 Turn my heart toward you, O Fa - ther;



pur - i - fy my heart, O Je - sus;  
 turn my heart a - way from en - vy;  
 turn my heart toward an - y neigh - bor;  
 turn my heart toward life, O Je - sus;  
 turn my heart toward you, O Je - sus;



pur - i - fy my heart, O Spir - it;  
 turn my heart a - way from fol - ly;  
 turn my heart toward foe and stran - ger;  
 turn my heart toward joy, O Spir - it;  
 turn my heart toward you, O Spir - it;



I want to see\_\_\_ my God.  
 O pur - i - fy\_\_\_ my heart.  
 I want to see\_\_\_ my God.  
 O pur - i - fy\_\_\_ my heart.  
 I want to see\_\_\_ my God.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

As we receive the symbol of ash  
 we remember that we are also dust,  
 we are flawed, broken and ever-evolving beings.

***We recognize our humanity  
 and we know now that brokenness, grief and loss are  
 part of the journey,  
 but they can also be part of our evolution into  
 our best selves.***

***Thank you Jesus, that in your humanity,  
 you have shown us what humanity can be.***

But we also remember that we are divine and beloved beings,  
and there is magnificence in us  
even in the pain and grief.

***We hold on to our brilliance in the darkness  
knowing it will be our strength  
that will carry us through.***

***Thank you Jesus, that in your divinity,  
you have shown us the divine image within us.***

We are aware of the brokenness that every person carries,  
we know that grief and sorrow are present  
within each person.

***In this community we want to be witnesses  
to each other's stories,  
all the good and the brokenness.***

***May we know that there is a space  
where we can find healing,  
rest, and companionship.***

***We pray for each person carrying a little more  
than they feel they can manage;  
may they find rest here. Amen.***

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “Into My Heart” (3 times)

***Into my heart, into my heart,  
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.  
Come in today, come in to stay,  
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.***

CALL OF CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we take this time out of our busy schedules  
to reconnect with you  
to recollect our emotions  
to recognize the sorrows and the joys the pain and the healing.

***We come as we are,  
we put aside our masks  
and our 'we're fine' responses.  
We see that there is brokenness in us too.***

We recognize that this is a vulnerable moment,  
and we don't like showing the brokenness.  
We have been taught not to show weakness—  
that it's honorable to suffer in silence.

***But we need the comfort of knowing we're not alone,  
that there are others who have gone through the troubles and trials  
we're facing and they've made it!***

We are so grateful for a place where we can share  
our stories and victories,  
our experiences and failures.  
There's healing found in acknowledging,  
in sharing,  
in listening.

***God, you have been the presence in the darkness,  
the whisper in the wind,  
the warmth in the sun.  
And we recognize you now  
in these moments of sharing with each other.  
Thank you for being present in every moment. Amen.***

## TAIZÉ MEDITATION “In God Alone” (3 times)

***In God alone my soul can find rest and peace,  
In God my peace and joy.  
Only in God my soul can find its rest,  
Find its rest and peace.***

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Lent asks,

***“How will you go deeper? How will you follow Christ?”***

Regardless of what that journey looks like for us,

***Regardless of what today, tomorrow, or the next day brings,***

The message of Lent is that we are not alone!

***We are seen and loved by God.***

We are held in God’s grace and granted the peace of forgiveness and the joy of restoration.

***Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.***

**ANTHEM** “Lead Me to the Cross”

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Luke 9:51-62

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” But Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” Another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

This is the Word of The Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

**ASH WEDNESDAY MESSAGE** “Everything (In) Between – Intention and Action”

## MEDITATION AND CONFESSION

### IMPOSITION OF ASHES

### PRAYER OF THE PENITENT

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into the 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 all 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.*

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*We believe in Jesus Christ, who said to ordinary people, "Follow me," and with his love, changed the world.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit who tethers us to all of creation, nudging us toward deeper and more intentional faith.*

*And we believe in the Creator who brings the sun over the horizon each morning, allowing every day to be a new beginning.*

*So with this new day, with Jesus' invitation ringing in our ears, and the Holy Spirit's tethering love, we realign our hopes with our words, our dreams with our prayers, our intentions with our actions.*

*Jesus, we believe. Guide our feet. Direct our lives. Inspire our love. Amen.*

# HYMN 576 "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

*Unison*

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de -  
 2. The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be -  
 3. Though none go with me, I still will fol - low, though none go  
 4. Will you de - cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de -

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de - cid - ed to fol - low  
 hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be - hind me, the cross be -  
 with me, I still will fol - low, though none go with me, I still will  
 cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de - cide now to fol - low

Je - sus— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.  
 fore me— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.  
 fol - low— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.  
 Je - sus?— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.

WORDS and MUSIC: Anonymous

ASSAM  
Irregular

## THE BENEDICTION



## THE IRISH BLESSING

*May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be ever at your back,  
May the sun shine 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.*

Liturgical resources and prayers for the worship service have been adapted from those created by Rev. Sarah A. Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC and are used with permission.

### Worship Team

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