



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

February 14, 2024
7:00 pm

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

* - Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE “Amazing Love”

COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE TRADITION OF ASH WEDNESDAY

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

INTROIT “The Gift of Love”

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Everywhere that life awakens

you are there, Divine Spirit.

Every living thing that finds rest in death

is welcomed home to you, Great Mystery.

Every breath of laughter that bubbles up within us

is shared by you, Holy One.

Every tear that we cry

is collected and valued by you, Wisdom of the Ages.

All the grief and joy, suffering and celebration, that comes to any corner of the universe

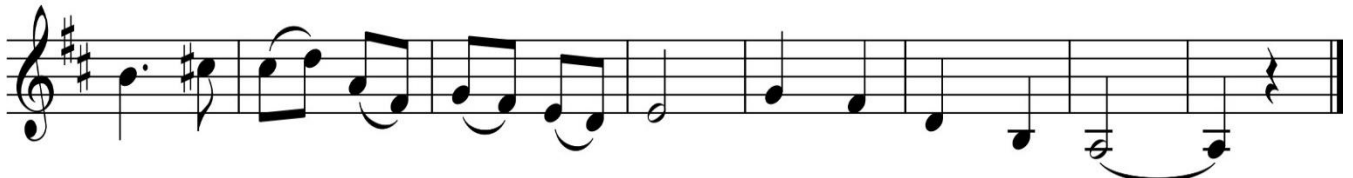
***has a place in the eternal, cosmic journey of becoming
which connects us all with each other
and with you, Lover of All.***

***Once again as we worship,
in faith, hope and love
we open our minds, hearts, souls,
and bodies to you, O God. Amen.***

HYMN “Take This Moment, Sign, and Space”



Take this mo-ment, sign, and space;	take my friends a round;_____
Take the time to call my name,	take the time to mend_____
Take the tired-ness of my days,	take my past re - gret,_____
Take the lit - tle child in me,	scared of grow-ing old;_____
Take my tal - ents, take my skills,	take what's yet to be;_____



here a- mong us_	make the_ place	where your love is found.____
who I am_ and what I've_ been,	all I've failed to tend.____	
let - ting your for - give - ness touch	all I can't for - get.____	
help me here to_ find_ my_ worth	made in Christ's own mold.____	
let my life_ be_ yours, and yet,	let it still be me.____	

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 "Lord, Be Glorified"

*In our lives, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In our lives, Lord, be glorified today.*

*In our homes, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In our homes, Lord, be glorified today.*

*In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.*

*In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.*

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND 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 “Shepherd Me, O God” (3 times)

*Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.*

ANTHEM “Who Am I”

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 58:1-11

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

“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.

Matthew 6:1-6 and 16-21

“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But

when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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

ASH WEDNESDAY MESSAGE “Keeping to the Main Thing”

MEDITATION AND CONFESSION

APPLICATION OF ASHES

HANG CROSS

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 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

539 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light. Eph. 5:8

1. I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to fol - low
2. I want to see the bright-ness of God; I want to look at
3. I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ; I want to be with

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world; the
Je - sus. Clear Sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and
Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain

star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
shall know the joy of Je - sus.

all; the night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

light of the cit - y of God: Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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.*

Minister of Word and Sacrament
Rev. Robert Hoffman

Soloist
Brian Rhode

Elder of the Day
Melody York

Deacon of the Day
Kevin Bottini

Liturgist
Vicki Lane

Director of Music Ministries
Benjamin April

Sound Technician
Jerry Kallner

Video Technician
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Welcome Host
Lori Coté

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The Gift of Love
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