

# Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023

## Land Acknowledgement

Each part of creation reveals unique aspects of God the Creator, who is both in creation and beyond it.

All parts of creation are related. All creation is good.

**We sing of the Creator, who made humans to live and move and have their being in God.**

**In and with God, we can direct our lives toward right relationship with each other and with God.**

**We can discover our place as one strand in the web of life.**

We acknowledge that our sacred space is found on the Indigenous territories of the WSÁNEĆ peoples. With thankfulness and respect for their stewardship of creation, we seek to live into right relations with all.

Centering Music: Called by Earth and Sky *Pat Mayberry*

## Call to Worship

Hymn: **Bathe Me in Your Light** (More Voices 82)

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- 1 Bathe me in your light,  
O God of All, Creator;  
let it shine upon my soul  
with healing and with grace.  
Be to me a beacon bright  
through shadows of life's wounding,  
showing me the way to live  
in faith, in your embrace.

- 2 Bathe me in your love,  
O Source of Awe and Wonder;  
help me walk the sacred path  
of harmony and peace.  
May I be attentive to  
the musings of your presence,  
drinking from the well of hope  
that brings the heart release.
- 3 Bathe me in your grace,  
O One of Spirit's longing;  
teach me of your gentle ways  
that fill the soul with strength.  
Guide me on the pilgrimage  
that leads to truth and wholeness,  
Fill me with your promise of  
a love that knows no length.

## Invitation to Confession

### Confession

Divine Mystery,  
For the times when we are too rushed to care,  
when we are too tired to bother,  
when we don't really listen,  
when we act from motives other than love,  
**God, forgive us.**

For our incapacity to feel the sufferings of others,  
and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,  
**God, forgive us.**

For our failings in community,  
our lack of understanding,  
**God, forgive us.**

For our lack of forgiveness, openness, sensitivity,  
**God, forgive us.**

For the self-righteousness that denies guilt,  
and the self-interest that strangles compassion,  
**God, forgive us.**

Scripture Reading: Joel 2:12-13

Hymn: **Dust and Ashes Touch Our Face** (Voices United 105)

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1 Dust and ashes touch our face,  
mark our failure and our falling.  
Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow,  
take us as disciples,  
washed and wakened by your calling.

*Refrain* Take us by the hand and lead us,  
lead us through the desert sands,  
bring us living water,  
Holy Spirit, come.

2 Dust and ashes soil our hands -  
greed of market, pride of nation.  
Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow,  
as we pray and struggle  
through the meshes of oppression. *Refrain*

3 Dust and ashes choke our tongue  
in the wasteland of depression.  
Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow,  
through all gloom and grieving  
to the paths of resurrection. *Refrain*

Burning of the Palms

Quenching the ashes (*In baptismal pitcher*)

Imposition of Ashes

Video Presentation: Dust We Are and Shall Return

*The Work of the People*

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

Prayer and Music

**Take, O Take Me as I Am** (More Voices 85)

*Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1995; Music: John L. Bell, 1995*

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**Take, O take me as I am;  
summon out what I shall be;  
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

Holy God, you created us to become who we are and who we  
may yet be.

Whether we are on the paths of our choosing, or on the roads  
that you lead us to,

help us to walk the paths of peace and understanding.

**Take, O take me as I am;  
summon out what I shall be;  
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

O living Christ, you call us to great and glorious purpose, planting within us talents and gifts to share to the world. Help us to open our eyes to the wonders of your creation, open our ears to hear your words of healing, open our hearts to receive your love and grace.

**Take, O take me as I am;  
summon out what I shall be;  
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

Loving Spirit, you surround us with grace and goodness in a world that is frantic with worry.

Help us to speak for those who have lost their voice, to support those who have lost their way, to befriend those who have no one.

**Take, O take me as I am;  
summon out what I shall be;  
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

Gracious God, on this night of nights, in such a time and in this place, we offer out prayers for those in our hearts and on our minds. Help us to know that your love is endless and enduring.

**Take, O take me as I am;  
summon out what I shall be;  
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

Take us, God,  
as we are,  
summon forth what we shall be, set your seal upon our hearts  
and live in us.  
Amen.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:19-21

Prayer

Blessing

May the grace of Christ, the love of God,  
and the sustaining power of the Holy Spirit  
continue to bless your Lenten journey. Amen.

Closing Music: **Let My Spirit Always Sing**

*Words: Shirley Erena Murray; Music: Jane Marshall*

Worship Leaders –Pastor Beth Parsons and Pastor Nancy Walker  
Technical Support – Karen Clark and Bob Krueckl