



Ash Wednesday Service
February 26, 2020
6:30 PM

We Gather Together

The Prelude:

“Prelude”

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Louis Vierne, trans. Charles Callahan

Daniel Pinkston

The Welcome

We Turn Toward the Cross of Jesus

*The Hymn: “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

**1. How deep the Father's love for us,
how vast beyond all measure,
that he should give his only Son
to make a wretch his treasure.
It was my sin that held him there
until it was accomplished;
his dying breath has brought me life —
I know that it is finished.**

**2. I will not boast in anything,
no gifts, no power, no wisdom;
but I will boast in Jesus Christ
his death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer,
but this I know with all my heart,
his wounds have paid my ransom.**

*The Hymn: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

**1. When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.**

Meditation: “ASHES AND CROSSES”

The Journey of Lent Begins

Please journey in silence

The Imposition of Ashes

Please come down the center aisle where the pastors will impose the ashes on your forehead with the traditional words “Dust you are, and to dust you will return.”

The pastors will use a scallop shell as a container for the ashes. The scallop shell is a traditional symbol of baptism, and it will remind us that even as we receive the ashes, Jesus promises us that his blood washes us clean from our sin and sets us free from death.

Meditation Music (during the Imposition of Ashes)

“O Christ, the Lamb of God”

Carl Stiller, Carl Piutti, Paul Manz

The Prayer of Confession:

Let us bring the Lord our contrite hearts.

Gracious God, we are people carrying heavy burdens.

We are sorry for sins that our lips dare not name and our hearts cannot bear.

There are worries and fears that leave us sleepless.

Have mercy upon us.

Through the blood of Jesus, set us free from a past that we cannot change, and open to us a future where we can be changed.

Lift the burdens from our tired hearts, and fill us with the joy of your Holy Spirit. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon: 2 Corinthians 5:21 – 6:2

*Closing Hymn: “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

**1. I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
no turning back, no turning back.**

**2. Though none go with me, I still will follow,
though none go with me I still will follow,
though none go with me, I still will follow;
no turning back, no turning back.**

**3. The world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me;
no turning back, no turning back.**

*Words of Sending

*The Silent Recessional

Please depart in silence

Pastor Bob Grussing & Rev. Ruth Boven – ministers

Dr. Larry Visser – pianist, organist,

Andrea Oosterhouse – oboist

Rev. Peter Jonker & Rev. Kristy Manion – imposition of ashes

Ash Wednesday is an ancient holy day in the Christian church calendar. It marks the beginning of the season of Lent—a time of penitence, discipline, and renewal. In the Ash Wednesday service we are reminded of our mortality, we confess our sins, and we prepare ourselves for Good Friday and Easter. The “imposition of ashes” is a central part of the service. During this time, you are invited to come forward to receive the ashes on your forehead.

In Scripture, ashes serve both as a symbol of mortality and as a sign of mourning and repentance. But neither sin nor death is the final word. We leave the service in confidence and gratitude: Christ has conquered death, and nothing can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

Copyright Stuart Townend ©1995 Kingsway’s Thankyou Music; P.O. 75
Eastbourne, East Sussex, UK. Used with permission under CCLI #461624