



Ash Wednesday Service
March 2, 2022
6:15 PM

The Prelude:

“Just as I Am”

Raymond H. Haan

The Chiming of the Hour

The Cross Processional

*The Call to Worship

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

God sent Christ into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

His steadfast love endures forever.

God is our refuge and our strength, an ever present help in trouble; therefore we will not fear.

His steadfast love endures forever.

*The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 655:1,2

“Out of the Depths I Cry to You on High”

The Meditation: “**DUST YOU ARE**”

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.

**Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.**

Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.

**Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.

**Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.

**My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.**

*The Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 627:1,2
“Just as I Am, Without One Plea”

The Imposition of Ashes

Please come forward down the center aisle when the music starts. Form two lines in front of each of the pastors. The pastor 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.

The Meditative Music During the Imposition of Ashes:

“O Christ, the Lamb of God”

“What Wondrous Love Is This?”

Paul Manz
Larry Visser

The Prayer of Confession:

Let us bring the Lord our contrite hearts.

**Gracious God, we are people carrying heavy burdens.
There are sins that our hearts cannot bear.
There are worries 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 it...**

Time of Silence

The Assurance: Psalm 103:8-10, 14

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 168:1,3
“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

*The Words of Sending

The Silent Recessional

Please depart in silence

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister
Rev. Mike Hoozeboom – liturgist
Ruby VanHaitsma – reader
Dr. Larry Visser –organist

Rev. Peter Jonker & Rev. Mike Hoozeboom – imposition of ashes
Erin Alley – cross bearer

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.