

Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”



Prelude

Welcome & Call to Worship (From Joel 2)

One: Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people.

All: Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near.

One: Return to the LORD, your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

All: We rend our hearts and not our clothing; let us return to God with all of our heart.

Hymn #468:

Be Thou My Vision

Time of Confession

Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. Have mercy on us, O God. Hear our silent prayers of confession...

(Time of Silent Reflection)

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 51: 10-12

Scripture Reading

Job 42:1-6

Meditation

Freedom in Ashes

The Imposition of Ashes

Litany

Receiving the Ashes

Song During Imposition of Ashes

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Blessings & Benediction

Postlude

ASH WEDNESDAY begins the season of Lent which is forty days plus six Sundays prior to Easter. Ash Wednesday takes its name from Old Testament times when “sackcloth and ashes” were symbols of repentance. As the ashes are spread the pastor says, “Remember that thou art dust; and to dust thou shalt return.” We are, in these ashes, reminded of our sinful nature and Christ’s salvation and grace offered freely to each of us.