



## ASH WEDNESDAY

“All go to the same place; all come from  
dust, and to dust all return.”

-Ecclesiastes 3:20

St. Francis-in-the-Wood

February 17, 2021

10:00 a.m.

via Zoom



AN ORDER OF SERVICE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 17, 2021

## WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

*The presiding celebrant greets the community and introduces the service.*

*Celebrant*            The Lord be with you.  
*People*                **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

*The community prays in silence; then follows the Collect of the Day.*

**Almighty and everlasting God,  
you despise nothing you have made  
and forgive the sins of all who are penitent.  
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our brokenness,  
may obtain of you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### Psalm 103:8-18

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.  
**The Lord remembers that we are dust.**

He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.  
He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.  
**The Lord remembers that we are dust.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.

**The Lord remembers that we are dust.**

As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.  
For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
he remembers that we are dust.

**The Lord remembers that we are dust.**

Our days are like the grass; \*  
we flourish like a flower of the field;  
When the wind goes over it, it is gone, \*  
and its place shall know it no more.

**The Lord remembers that we are dust.**

But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever  
on those who fear him, \*  
and his righteousness on children's children;  
On those who keep his covenant \*  
and remember his commandments and do them.

## Invitation to a Holy Lent

Dear friends in Christ,  
every year at the time of the Christian Passover  
we celebrate our redemption  
through the death and resurrection  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration  
and to renew our life in the paschal mystery.  
We begin this holy season  
by remembering our need for repentance,  
and for the mercy and forgiveness  
proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes,  
an ancient sign,  
speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of human life,  
and marking the penitence of the community as a whole.

I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord,  
to observe a holy Lent  
by self-examination, penitence, prayer,  
fasting, and almsgiving,  
and by reading and meditating on the word of God.

*Silence is then kept for reflection.*

*Psalm 51.1–18 is sung or said.*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness; \*  
in your great compassion blot out my offences.  
Wash me through and through from my wickedness \*  
and cleanse me from my sin.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

For I know my transgressions, \*  
and my sin is ever before me.  
Against you only have I sinned \*  
and done what is evil in your sight.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

And so you are justified when you speak \*  
and upright in your judgement.  
Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \*  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.  
Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins \*  
and blot out all my iniquities.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence \*  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

Give me the joy of your saving help again \*  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.  
I shall teach your ways to the wicked, \*  
and sinners shall return to you.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

Deliver me from death, O God, \*  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,  
O God of my salvation.  
Open my lips, O Lord, \*  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, \*  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.  
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; \*  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

*Read by...*

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

GENESIS 2:4b-9

Reflection

*Angus Stuart*

Song      Create In Me A Clean Heart  
(written by B. Bannister, performed by Tom Arntzen)

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew a right spirit within me.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence O Lord  
And take not thy Holy Spirit from me  
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation  
And renew a right spirit within me.

Litany of Penitence

**Most holy and merciful Father,  
we confess to you, to one another,  
and to the whole communion of saints  
in heaven and on earth,  
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 neighbours as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

**Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

*The celebrant offers the following prayer.*

Almighty God,  
from the dust of the earth you have created us.  
May these ashes be for us a sign  
of our mortality and penitence,  
and a reminder that only by your gracious gift  
are we given eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

*We are now invited to make contact with the reality of our earthbound earthy life and of our mortality with soil or ashes – placing some on our heads or simply contemplating the material in our hands with the words:*

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

**Song**      Raking Through the Ashes  
(written & performed by Mandolin Jack)

*After this, we conclude our confession:*

Accomplish in us, O God,  
the work of your salvation,

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,  
**Bring us with all your saints  
to the joy of his resurrection.**

Almighty God have mercy on you,  
forgive you all your sins  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
strengthen you in all goodness,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit  
keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## The Peace

*All stand.*

Being justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

May the peace of Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,  
we rejoice to pray,

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray together:

**God of compassion,  
through your Son Jesus Christ  
You reconcile your people to yourself.  
Give us grace to follow his example of prayer and fasting  
with willing hearts and to serve one another in holy love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Glory to God,  
**whose power working in us,  
can do infinitely more  
than we can ask or imagine.  
Glory to God from generation to generation,  
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Blessing and Dismissal

May Christ give us all grace to grow in holiness,  
deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow him;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
rest upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*People* Let us go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**