



Remember
that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

(Imposition of Ashes)

March 6, 2019

7:00 p.m.

GATHERING

Prelude

(From the depths of sin HWB #136)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Opening words

From the depths of sin and sadness, I have called unto the Lord. Be not deaf to my poor pleading, in your mercy, hear my voice. Tonight we begin the season of Lent. We come into God's presence as we truly are, fragile and imperfect. We come into God's presence to be fully loved. We come into God's presence and prepare to journey toward the cross and live into the great paradox of our faith - that in death we find life.

Call to worship *(based on Joel 2:12-13)*

“Even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and mourning.
Rend your hearts, and not your garments.”
Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and filled with compassion and love.

Opening prayer

Let them all go to You -

all the joys and sufferings of this day.

Let them all go to You -

all the worries of today.

Let them all go to You -

all the mistakes that I made.

Let them all go to You -

all the people that I care for.

Let them all go to You -

all the sufferings of the world.

Let them all go to You.

All the love that I was given, let it all go to You.

**Let me all go to You, for You are the One who
satisfies.**

(Mary Jo Leddy)

HWB #493 I heard the voice of Jesus say

Silence

Psalm 103:8-14

Silence

Matthew 6:1-9a

Lord's Prayer – *in unison*

Silence

HWB #348 O Lord, hear my prayer

CONFESSION

Scripture: Psalm 51:1-9

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;

**according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.**

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

**For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.**

Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,

**so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.**

Indeed, I was born in the midst of sin,
in the midst of sin my mother conceived me.

**You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

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

Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

Ritual of pouring out our sins

HWB # 152 Kyrie – *Each time sand is poured sing Kyrie twice.*

ASSURANCE

Psalm 51:10-12 – *in unison*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

HWB #136 From the depths

Imposition of Ashes

(The ashes signify repentance and humility as we enter the season of Lent. After the leaders have been marked with ashes, we invite all who wish, to come forward to receive the same sign. With the ashes, the leaders will say, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return.")

SENDING

Blessing the dust by Jan Richardson

HWB #655 Now, on land and sea descending

Benediction

Go marked and loved for who you truly are.
From dust we came and from dust we shall return.
But God's steadfast love endures forever.