

## Assurance of Pardon

Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Turn toward your God in the confidence that, through Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Hymn: HWB #136 From the depths of sin

John 8:2-11

Hymn: HWB #145 There's a wideness in God's mercy

Sand and Ashes (piano *Amazing Grace*)  
Writing in the Sand

### Imposition of Ashes

(Sand reminds us of Jesus' forgiving encounter with the woman in John 8. The ashes signify repentance and humility as we enter the season of Lent. After the leaders have drawn in the sand and have been marked with ashes, we invite all who wish to come forward to do the same. As you come forward, pause at the sand. Write a word, draw a line, or make a simple handprint as a symbol of what you are releasing to God. As the leader wipes the sand blank, hear the words, "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more." As you receive the ashes, the leader will say, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return.")

## Sending

*Blessing the dust*, by Jan Richardson

Hymn: 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.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 26, 2020

7:00 p.m.

## Gathering

Prelude

*(From the depths of sin HWB #136)*

The Lord be with you.

**And, also with you.**

Opening Words

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*

Hymn: 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

Hymn: HWB #348 O Lord hear my prayer

## Confession

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.

***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.***

Hymn: HWB #152 Kyrie (sing twice)

Prayer of Confession (spoken and silent)