

# Ash Wednesday Worship

*February 10, 2016* 

6:00 pm

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent.

It is a service for repentance and somber reflection based on the text:

"you are dust and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).

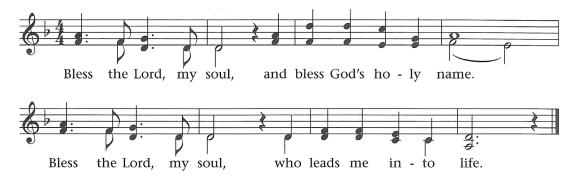
The use of ashes began in the tenth century to remind worshipers of their mortality as they began their Lenten journey to the cross.

This first day of Lent reminds us that two things are involved in genuine repentance:

"the dying of the old self and the coming to life of the new."

#### Gathering

#### Bless the Lord, My Soul



# **Procession of the Cross and Light**

## **Prayer (responsive)**

Let us pray. (pause) Into all darkness, doubt, and despair, *Christ Jesus, be our light.* 

Into all sorrow, sickness, and grief, *Christ Jesus, be our comfort.* 

Into each conflict, division, and war, *Christ Jesus, be our peace.* 

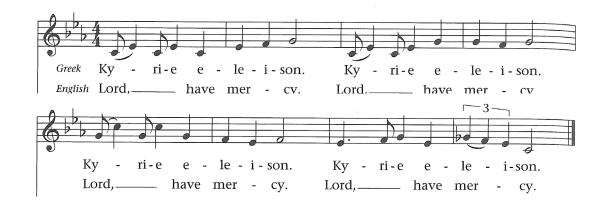
Into all separation, apathy, and sin, *Christ Jesus, be our mercy.* 

Into all wounded and weary,

Christ Jesus, be our hope, now and always. Amen.

#### **Word and Prayers**

#### **Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)**



#### Psalm 51:

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.

## Kyrie eleison.

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.

#### Kyrie eleison.

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.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

Deliver me from bloodshed,

O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

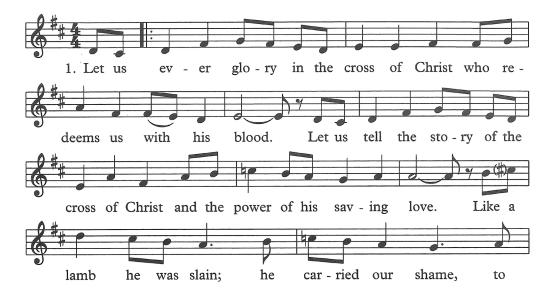
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

# Kyrie eleison.

## **Glory In the Cross**





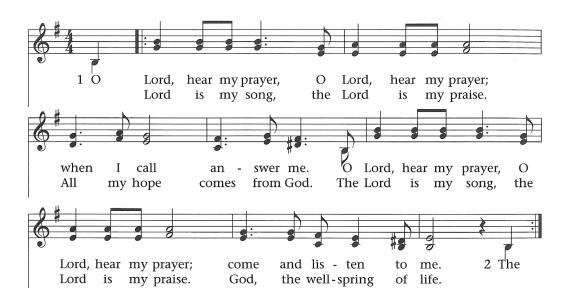
#### **Meditation/Theme Interpretation**

Carol McEntyre

#### **Movement to the Cross**

Please lay a nail by the cross, a symbol of the cross'ugliness and a reminder of the beauty we find in its grace and mercy. Then, take some time to kneel, sit, or stand in prayer, confessing your sins and asking for forgiveness.

#### O Lord, Hear My Prayer



#### Prayer

Many of your people, O God, have lost their way, feel abandoned, or are overwhelmed by the violence around them.

Many are trapped in the darkness of despair, too hurt to speak; and too broken to hope.

Many are drawn to other gods and easier loyalties, too seduced to resist, and too disenchanted to care.

Many feel utterly alone in the world, unable to love themselves, unable to love beyond themselves.

Many of your people are victims of recent world disasters, near and far away, whose misery goes unreported, unobserved, and who endure famine, war, and disease.

We pray for all your people who need your saving grace.

#### O Lord, Hear My Prayer

#### Glory In the Cross (stanza 2)



#### **Movement to the Cross**

Lent was originally a 40 day period of fasting prior to Easter, and from this tradition, some faith communities developed the concept of "giving something up" for Lent. Tonight, as we begin the season of Lent, we invite you to make a commitment to God. On the piece of paper under your chair, please write down a commitment you might make to God; for example, perhaps you

could read your Bible daily, pray for someone in need, volunteer at a local help organization, or give up caffeine. Once you have written a commitment, please lay the paper by the cross and pause to ask for God's help.

## **Special Music**

Just As I Am

Madeline O'Meara, Bria Jones, Joey Smith, Ben Worley

#### **Imposition of Ashes and Movement to the Cross**

The ashes remind us of our mortality and our sinful nature. Please journey to the small table where Pastor Carol will give the sign of the cross to all who desire. The cross reminds us of Christ's death and symbolizes the grace and mercy that he shares so freely with us. After receiving the ashes of mortality and penitence, please light one of the candles located around the cross as a reminder that, in the light of Christ, darkness and sin are overcome.

#### Come As You Are

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been Come broken-hearted let rescue begin Come find your mercy O sinner come kneel Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal

(So) Lay down your burdens lay down your shame
All who are broken lift up your face
O wanderer come home
You're not too far
So lay down your hurt lay down your heart
Come as you are

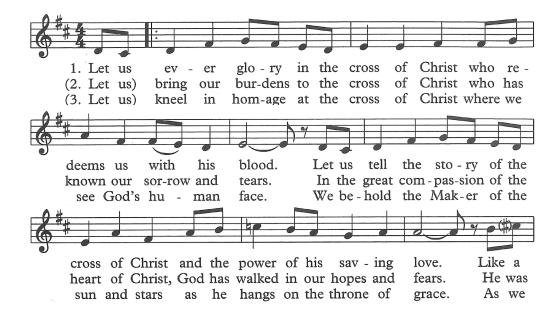
There's hope for the hopeless
And all those who've strayed
Come sit at the table come taste the grace
There's rest for the weary
Rest that endures
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure

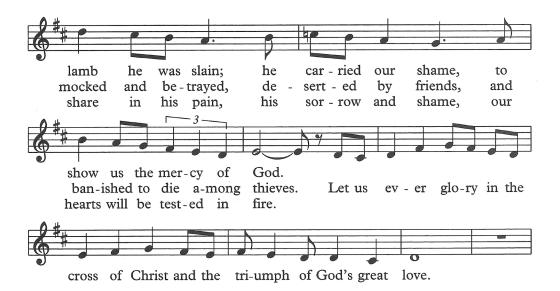
Come as you are Fall in His arms Come as you are

There's joy for the morning O sinner be still Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal

#### Come as you are

#### Glory In the Cross (stanza 3)





#### **Closing Prayer**

Gathering our many prayers into one, let us pray. (pause)

Holy God, our light and our salvation, you hear us when we cry to you and answer when we call.

Grant that all who seek your face in times of trouble may see your goodness in the land of the living, and dwell in your presence all the days of their lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### **Sending**

The psalmist encourages us with these words:
This we believe—
we will see the goodness of God.
Take heart as you go in peace
or remain to pray.

## Worship Notes:

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