

Ash Wednesday Order of Worship

February 22, 2023 ~ 6:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. Lent is marked by dedicated attention to sin in our lives leading us to repentance. As you enter the Sanctuary, use this time for silent meditation and preparation for worship.

PRELUDE

“Amazing Grace”
Wanda Cooper, Organ

*HYMN

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”
Bringing in the Light of Christ Page No. 269 ~ Verses 1, 2, 4, 5

GREETING

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: **God’s mercy endures forever.**

OPENING PRAYER

O God, maker of everything and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of death you will raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

EPISTLE LESSON

Colossians 3:12-17

OFFERTORY PRAYER

The Ash Wednesday offering is used to assist in Tanzania & Wesley College mission efforts.

OFFERING

“Lenten Meditation”
Sanctuary Choir

*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

MEDITATION

A Call to Prayer & Fasting
Rev. Bill Price

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those wishing to receive the symbol of confession are invited to come forward to receive the cross of ashes. Please wait to be directed by the ushers.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Responsive Reading
Psalm 51:1-17 ~ Page No. 785

*HYMN

“I Surrender All”
Page No. 354 ~ Verses 1, 2, 4, 5

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

As a sign of humility, please depart the Sanctuary in silence.

* Please stand as you are able.

The service tonight is being led by our Confirmands and Staff.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship, and the Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. This practice is the historic focus of Ash Wednesday observance and gave the day its name. *-adapted from the United Methodist Book of Worship.*

The season of Lent calls us to embrace spiritual disciplines such as praying and fasting. Both Pastor Bill and Pastor Kitsy are challenging our congregation to miss a lunch meal during the weeks across Lent and save the money that would have been spent for the meal for missions. Bring the money saved to worship the Sunday after Easter, April 16th. All monies collected will go to Tanzania & Wesley College.

A special thank you to the 2023 Confirmands for assisting with leading our Ash Wednesday Service:

Miles Baker

Charlotte Evans

Nolan Feinberg

Alice Glenn

Ella Glenn

Kat Hart

Brooks Isbell

Wright Kelley

Jackson Lober

Ainsley Madden

Price McHenry

MJ Parish

Avery Therrell

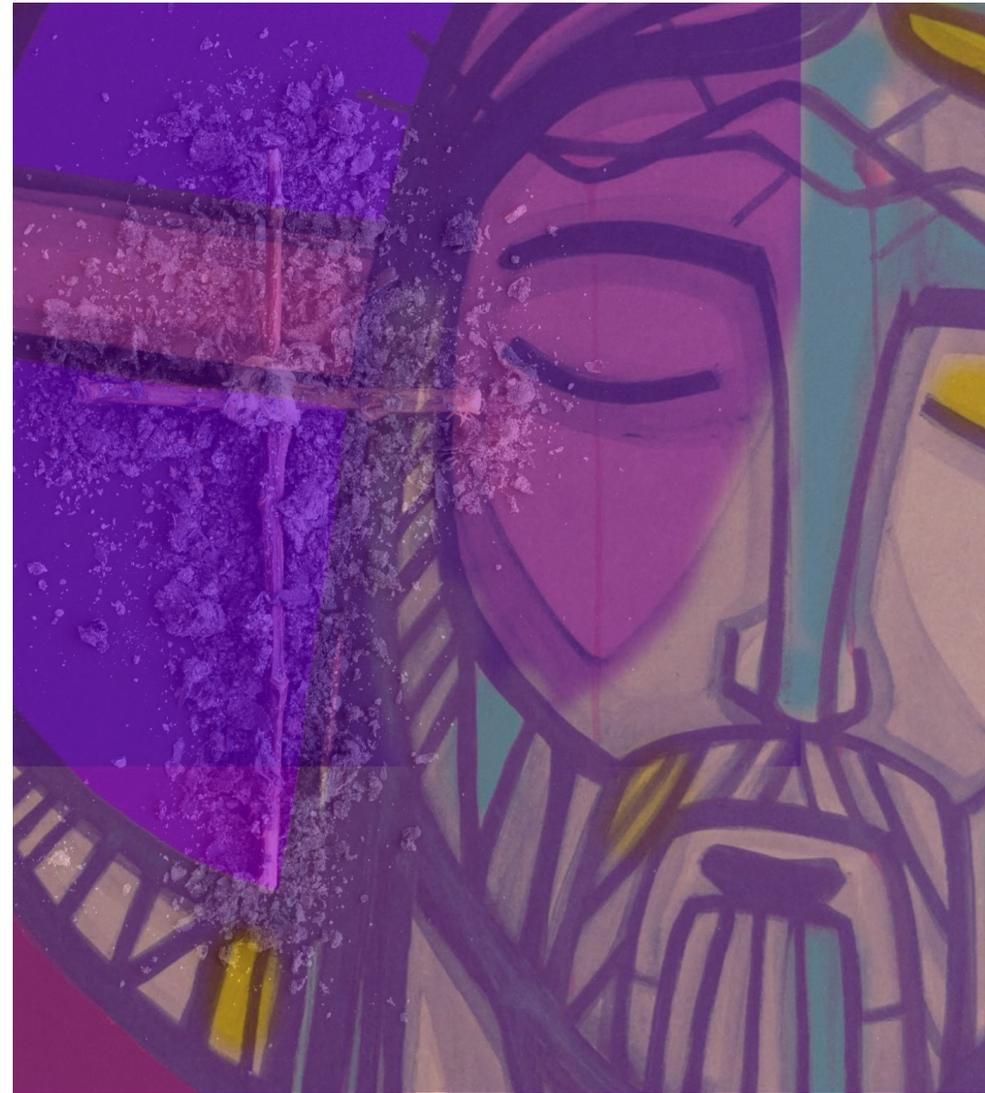
Graham Tyler

Stone Tyler

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ASH WEDNESDAY