



ASH WEDNESDAY

Reader 1: “Our hearts no longer have any joy;
our dancing is turned to mourning...for we have sinned.”
(Lamentations 5:15)

Congregation: **Lord, forgive me. Return to me my first love.**

Reader 1: I have sinned and I have stumbled.

Reader 2: Bring me back into the light of Your will.

Reader 3: Lord, take my hands and guide me.

Congregation: **“Guide me into your truth and teach me.
For you are the God who delivers me;
on you I rely all day long.”** (Psalm 25:5)

Reader 1: I will rely on You, Lord.

Reader 2: Rely on You, because my flesh fails me.

Reader 3: My flesh that places so much importance
on the things of this world.

Congregation: **Lord, forgive me.
My spirit is willing but my flesh is weak.**

Reader 2: Lord, you have told us to “put to death
whatever in our nature belongs to the earth.”
(Colossians 3:5)

Reader 1: So with a spirit of repentance
I put to death the sins of my nature.

Congregation: **I repent in dust and ashes.** (Job 42:6)

Reader 3: For we are dust, and to dust we will return. (Genesis 3:19)

Reader 1: Let me be mindful of this.

And put my hope in things eternal.

Reader 2: Hope that comes only through the blood of Christ.

Reader 3: “In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”
(Colossians 1:14)

Congregation: **Lord, redeem me.**

Reader 1: Redeem me as I come to you with a broken spirit.

Reader 2: And reconcile my will to You with prayer and fasting.

Reader 3: "I turned my attention to the Lord God to implore Him
by prayer and requests, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes."

(Daniel 9:3)

Congregation: **Lord, restore me.**

Reader 1: Heal my broken spirit.

Reader 2: "The sacrifices God desires are a humble spirit –
O God, a humble and repentant heart you will not reject."

(Psalm 51:17)

Reader 3: Only You can restore my soul.

Congregation: **"But if we walk in the light as He himself is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another and the blood of
Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."** (1 John 1:7)

Reading

"Ash Wednesday"
(Poem by Lisa Caldwell-Reiss)

Choir

"BOW OUR HEARTS"

arr. Harris

Scripture Readings

Wisdom Psalm 51:1-4, 15-17 (*Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon*)

Prophet Joel 2:12-13a (*A Call to Repentance and Prayer*)

Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (*Concerning Almsgiving*)

Reflection Reading: Why We Do What We Do

Choir

"CREATE IN ME"

M. Burkhardt

Reading

"Changer, A Prayer Poem for Ash Wednesday"
(Poem by Adrienne Trevathan)

Hymn No. 792

“THERE IS A BALM IN GILEAD”

*There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;
there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.*

*Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged, and think my work's in vain,
but then the Ho-ly Spir-it re-vives my soul a-gain.*

*There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;
there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.*

*Don't ev-er feel dis-cour-aged, for Je-sus is your friend,
and if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll not re-fuse to lend.*

*There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;
there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.*

*If you can-not preach like Pe-ter, if you can-not pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Je-sus and say, "He died for all".*

*There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;
there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.*

Imposition of Ashes

You are invited to make the mark of the cross on your forehead with the ashes in your individual bag during the reading of our blessing.

Blessing “Rend Your Heart: A Blessing for Ash Wednesday”
(Poem by Jan L. Richardson)

Postlude