



**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**March 2, 2022**

**5:00 pm**

***Full to the Brim: With all that you are***

***Bolded text is read and sung in unison***

**PRELUDE** ~ *“Be Thou My Vision” (arr. Young)*

**WELCOME AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**WORDS OF GATHERING**

“Even now, declares the Lord,  
return to me with all your heart.” (Joel 2:12)

**Roll up your sleeves.**

Let down your guard.

**Come in from the storm.**

Make yourself at home.

**Pull up to the table.**

Release the tension in your jaw.

**Take a deep breath.**

Return to God with all your heart.

**May it be so.**

## SONG ~ "Bless the Lord, My Soul"

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

Dm G Dm Bb C Dm

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. Above the treble staff, chord symbols are provided for each measure: Dm, G, Dm, Bb, C, and Dm. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

## OPENING PRAYER

Loving Creator,

we are here,

telling stories of dust.

We are here,

trying to shake the dust

out of our ears

so that we might hear you clearly.

We are here,

hoping that showing up

is the first step in returning to you.

Scoop us up in your embrace and carry us to a place of truth.

Clear the smog that makes it hard to see.

Clear the dust that makes it hard to hear.

We are at the edge of our seats.

We are listening for you.

Amen.

**SONG** ~ *“Ash Wednesday Comes and Lord, We Hear” (Tune: O Waly Waly)*

***Ash Wednesday comes, and Lord, we hear***

***The word for which our spirits yearn;***

***Amid this world's distress and fear,***

***We hear your loving call: "Return!"***

***"Return to me with all your heart"***

***With fasting, weeping, mourning, too.***

***O God, we seek a brand new start,***

***A new beginning here with you.***

***You call to us — the old, the young;***

***You summon nations strong and weak.***

***When we have drifted toward the wrong,***

***You call us back, your way to seek.***

***O God most merciful and kind,***

***Your love is not a prize we earn;***

***Yet in our life with you we find***

***The joy that comes when we return.***

## **PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION**

Lent can sometimes get a negative reputation. It's viewed as the season in our faith when we give things up, we prepare for the worst. However, I cannot help but imagine that God wants more for us than just six weeks of discipline or six weeks without chocolate. I cannot help but imagine that God wants a life for us so expansive that faith, joy, and hope flow over the edges. So let us confess, not because we have to suffer our way through Lent, but because the truth moves us one step closer to that expansive faith.

Let us pray:

**Holy God, we confess: we don't return to you fully.**

**We share with you the pieces of our lives that are convenient.**

**We put on different hats in different rooms.**

**We forget that we are called, invited, and loved with all that we are—**

**Including our mess, our beauty, our faith, and our doubt.**

**Forgive us, and give us a heart that longs to return.**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Friend, God sees you. God hears you. God loves you. You are forgiven and claimed with all that you are. Rest in that good news. Thanks be to God, amen.

### **SUNG REFRAIN ~ “Eagle’s Wings”**

Refrain

And he will raise you up on ea - gle's wings, bear you on the  
breath of dawn, make you to shine like the  
sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

to Verses (last time to Coda) ♯

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the lyrics 'And he will raise you up on ea - gle's wings, bear you on the'. The second staff continues with 'breath of dawn, make you to shine like the'. The third staff concludes with 'sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.' and includes a double bar line with a diamond symbol and the instruction 'to Verses (last time to Coda)'. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

## **SHARING OUR SACRED STORY**

### ***Joel 2:1-2, 12-17***

Blow the trumpet in Zion;

sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,

for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—

a day of darkness and gloom,

a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread upon the mountains

a great and powerful army comes;

their like has never been from of old,

nor will be again after them  
in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the LORD,  
return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and relents from punishing.

Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain offering and a drink offering  
for the LORD, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation;  
assemble the aged;  
gather the children,  
even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.

Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,  
and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,  
'Where is their God?'"

## **Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

**REFLECTION** ~ *from Full to the Brim by Rev. Ashley DeTar Birt*

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

**SONG** ~ *“Dust and Ashes Touch Our Face”*

Gen. 3:17-19; Ps. 51:1-12

Brian Wren, 1989

*Unison*

1 Dust and ash - es touch our face, mark our fail - ure and our  
 2 Dust and ash - es soil our hands— greed of mar - ket, pride of  
 3 Dust and ash - es choke our tongue in the waste-land of de -

fall - ing. Ho-ly Spir-it, come, walk with us to - mor-row,  
 na - tion. Ho-ly Spir-it, come, walk with us to - mor-row  
 pres - sion. Ho-ly Spir-it, come, walk with us to - mor-row

take us as dis - ci - ples, washed and wak-ened by your call - ing.  
 as we pray and strug-ple through the mesh-es of op - pres - sion.  
 through all gloom and griev-ing to the paths of res - ur - rec - tion.

*Refrain*

Take us by the hand and lead us, lead us through the des - ert sands,

bring us liv - ing wa - ter, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

## **BLESSING**

As you leave this place,  
May you be awestruck by the beauty of this world.  
May you laugh, and may it be contagious.  
May you overflow with love for those around you.  
May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy.  
And in all of your living, and breathing, and being,  
May you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit,  
And may it change your life.  
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself—  
Go in peace, full to the brim. Amen.

**POSTLUDE** ~ *"Meditation on Balm in Gilead"* (arr. Hopson)

***Pastor: Rev. Amy Hitchens***

***Lay Leader: Mark B.***

***Musician: Steve K.***

### Worship credits:

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