




A Reconciling in Christ congregation,  
celebrating the diversity of God's children  
and fostering understanding  
and healing in community 

## Ash Wednesday



**February 22, 2023**  
**7:00 pm**

**Followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all...**  
*an adventure for life!*

## THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

### In Preparation for Worship

- Within the sanctuary please remember that some people use this time of silence to prepare for worship.
- Whenever the cross is carried in procession through the congregation, we turn to face the cross to signify our way of life as followers of Jesus.
- Large-print bulletins and copies of the worship order are available; ask an usher for assistance.
- Assistive hearing devices are available from the ushers.
- Please silence your cell phone.

**Except when you come forward to receive the ashes and share communion, please remain seated for the entire service**

### **Prelude**

***More Love to Thee, O Christ, arr. Mark Hayes***

### **Choral Call to Worship**

#### **Remember That You Are Dust**

*First time through is a solo from a choir member;  
the whole choir sings the second time;  
then the congregation sings 3 times*

1\* 2

Re - mem - ber that you are dust, and to  
dust you shall re - turn.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is marked with '1\*' and '2' above the first and second measures respectively. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

*\* May be sung in canon*

Text: Ash Wednesday liturgy  
Music: CROSS OF ASHES, Mark Mummert, b. 1965  
Music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

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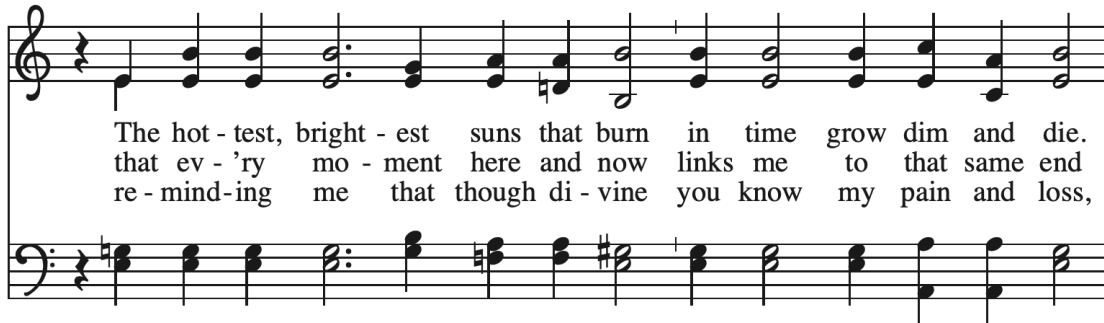
### **Welcome**

## Gathering Song

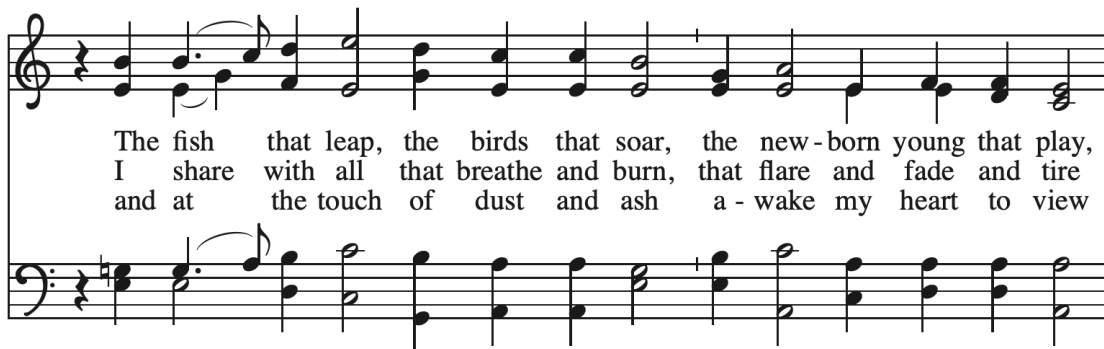
### All Things of Dust to Dust Return



1 All things of dust to dust re - turn on earth and in the sky.  
2 Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow so I may com-pre-hend  
3 Lord, mark up - on my brow this sign: a stark and bar-ren cross



The hot - test, bright - est suns that burn in time grow dim and die.  
that ev - 'ry mo - ment here and now links me to that same end  
re - mind - ing me that though di - vine you know my pain and loss,



The fish that leap, the birds that soar, the new-born young that play,  
I share with all that breathe and burn, that flare and fade and tire  
and at the touch of dust and ash a - wake my heart to view



the leaves that fill the for - est floor re - vert to dust and clay.  
yet by their wan - ing light dis - cern your own un - dy - ing fire.  
how death it - self is but a flash that dies a - way in you.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: THIRD MODE MELODY, Thomas Tallis, 1505–1585

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## Personal Reflection

*Read over the hymn we just sang. What is a phrase or verse that speaks to you? What is it saying to you?*

## **Placing the Ashes**

Our ancestors in the faith used ashes to remind us that we come from dust, and we shall return to dust. Ashes are a sign of confession, and are a symbol of how uncertain and fragile life is. Like our ancestors, we taste the ashes of hopelessness. We walk through the ashes of loss and pain. We live amid the ashes of brokenness and sin.

God of our lives, out of the dust of creation you form us and give us life. May these ashes not only be a sign of the fact that each of us will one day die, but also a reminder that nothing you create is ever destroyed, and that you will hold us in your life forever. **Amen.**

*Please come forward to receive the ashes. Let an usher know if you would like to receive them at your seat.*

From dust were you made. To dust you shall return.

*Words for reflection as you receive and wear the ashes*

## **Reflection**

### ***From the Ashes, a New Creation***

by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Take all of who I am,  
the me-ness of me,  
what makes me who I am,  
the special, the unique,  
the brilliant and the unpardonable,  
all I'm so proud of, and so ashamed,  
that I've worked so hard to fashion,  
that I'm still working on,  
what I can't part with  
because there wouldn't be  
anything left of me—  
take it.

Take it.  
I lay it in your hands.  
Gather it into yourself,  
into your dark, generous mystery,  
and in the flame of your creating heart  
burn it.

Then into the dust and ashes  
breathe your breath,

and with gratitude  
I will receive  
who rises

when in your grace  
you give me  
me  
anew.

### **Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 6:1-6, 19-21**

(New Living Translation, inclusivized)

[Jesus said to his followers], “Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Abba in heaven. When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Give your gifts in private, and your Abba, who sees everything, will reward you.

“When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray in private. Then your Abba, who sees everything, will reward you....”

“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”

### **Spoken Reflection**

## Musical Reflection

### Lonesome Valley

*arr. Jay Althouse*

Jesus walked this lonesome valley.  
He had to walk it by Himself.  
Oh, nobody else could walk it for Him,  
He had to walk it by Himself.

When we walk this lonesome valley,  
we won't walk it by ourselves, by ourselves.  
No, Jesus is there; He'll walk beside us.  
We won't walk it by ourselves.  
In the valley I walk in a pasture so green  
with a river so deep and so wide.  
A valley more beautiful than I have ever seen.  
I walk with the Lord as my guide.

When you walk your lonesome valley,  
you won't walk it by yourself.  
No, Jesus is there; He'll walk beside you.  
You won't walk it by yourself.

I will walk this valley with my Lord.

# Prayers of the People

## Prayer Response

### In the Lord, I'll be Ever Thankful (sung 3 times)

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re -  
joyce! Look to God, do not be a - fraid. Lift up your  
voic - es, the Lord is near. Lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near." There are triplets in the piano accompaniment on the second and third systems.

Text: Taizé Community, based on Isaiah 12  
Music: Jacques Berthier

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## **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

*Jesus invited all who were hungry for food, healing, justice, and joy to share this communion meal. Since this is his meal, and he is present to us in it, all are welcome.*

People of God, the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

People of dust, lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

People of ashes, let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We try. God knows, we try.

We show up at church, hoping God will notice.

We put on a false face to show everyone how proper we are:

how fine, how together, how religious;

and we wonder – is God impressed?

**Not when we clench our fists in anger,**

**rather than opening them in love;**

**not when we work people too hard**

**and pay them too little;**

**not when we speak bitter and harmful words**

**to those we are given to love.**

So tonight, as we begin our Lenten fast, God offers us a feast. Why?

So that the broken bread will strengthen us:

to break the chains of injustice,

to take the burden of poverty off our neighbors,

to challenge an economy that doesn't ask why there are still hungry people.

**God offers us a feast so that the cup of grace will free us to take coats out of our closets and wrap them around shivering shoulders;**

**to offer shelter to the homeless without judging them;**

**to spend more time sharing our love instead of fearing it cannot heal or bless.**

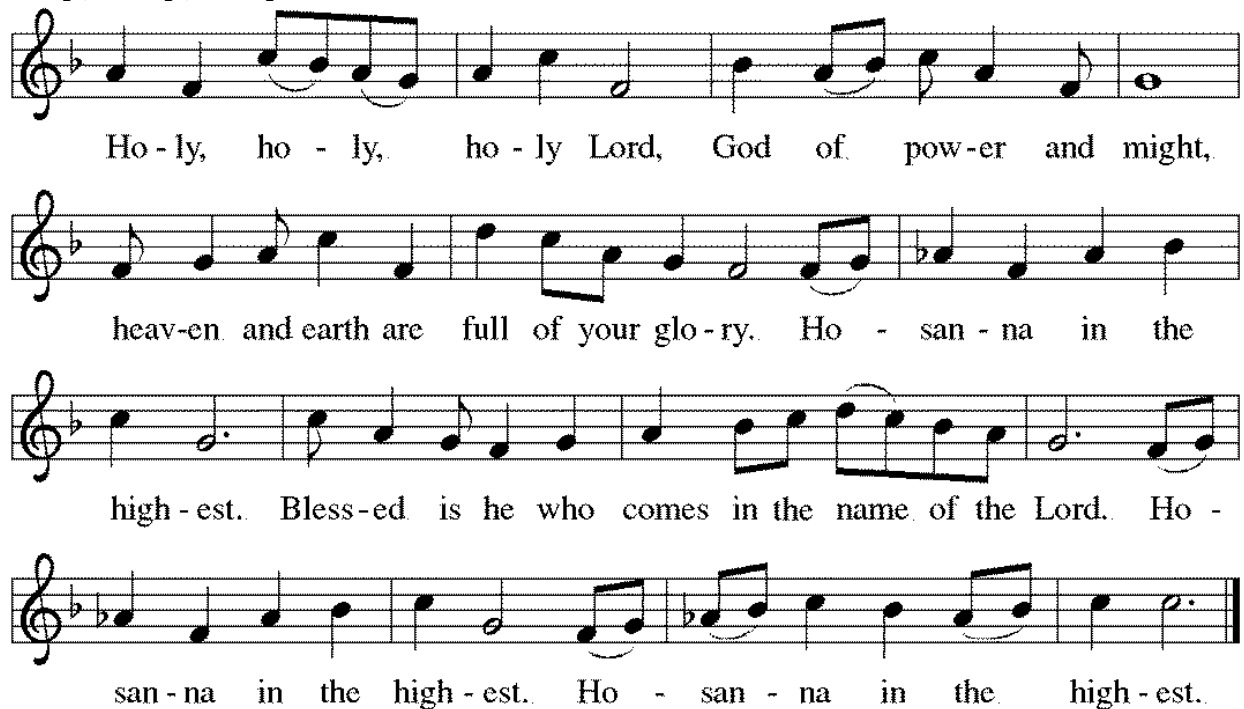


So, come to this table and eat.  
Here, you will see the light God offers to your darkness;  
here, you will find the path God calls you to travel;  
here, you will discover God waiting to embrace you,  
even before you say a word.

**We will come to this table and feast.**

We glorify you, Holy One, joining our voices with those who had wandered far from you, but who were brought home; and with those who seek you now in this time and place:

### Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Preparing to journey with Jesus once again, we remember the mystery of his faithful obedience to your heart: how on the night he was betrayed, he gathered with his friends, took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, broken for you: do this to remember me."

And after supper, he took the cup, and gave it to them, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood. It is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me."

Holy Spirit, Heart of Compassion: as the ashes of our humanity are placed upon your baptismal seal, so the brokenness of our lives is placed on the table of grace, so the bread might make us whole, and the cup might fill us with joy. Then, in your wisdom, may we turn to serve and be served; in your joy, may we bear the burdens of others and share ours with them; in your grace, may our love overflow to others and may we receive the love that flows to us, as we make real the prayer Jesus teaches us:

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread and the Sharing of the Cup**

The gifts of God, for the people of God. Jesus welcomed all to this meal.

So do we.

*Please be seated*

*You may come forward to receive the elements, or let an usher know you'd like to be served in your seat. Gluten-free wafers are available on request; ask Pastor.*

### **Prayer of Commitment**

Jesus Christ, Grace-bearer: as we enter this season of Lent, we open ourselves so you can fill us with your hope. As gratitude leads us to realize all the gifts you offer, we will open our hearts to others. As we begin our journey with you, we will choose to put no roadblocks on the path to Jerusalem which we walk with you. We will choose to walk with each other, and with you. For you promise always to stay by our side.

**Amen.**

## Remember That You Are Dust

*First time through is a solo from a choir member;  
the whole choir sings the second time;  
then the congregation sings 3 times*

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is labeled '1\*' and contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: 'Re - mem - ber that you are dust, and to'. The second staff is labeled '2' and contains the melody for the second line: 'dust you shall re - turn.'. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

*\* May be sung in canon*

Text: Ash Wednesday liturgy

Music: CROSS OF ASHES, Mark Mummert, b. 1965

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## Depart in silence

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# 2023 Lenten Worship

## *Lenten Evening Prayer*



Wednesday evenings  
*March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29*  
7:00 pm  
IN-PERSON

## *Maundy Thursday* *April 6*



7:00 pm Worship with Foot- and Hand-Washing  
IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM



## *Good Friday* *April 7*

7:00 pm Worship – Seven Last Words of Christ  
Hosting Christ United Methodist Church  
IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM

## *Resurrection of Our Lord* *Sunday, April 9*

8:30 am  
IN-PERSON  
11:00 am Worship  
IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM

