




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

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## Ash Wednesday



**February 14, 2024**  
**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.
- Please silence your cell phone.

## Prelude

*What Wondrous Love Is This, arr. John Carter*

## 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*

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is labeled '1\*' and '2' above the notes. The lyrics 'Re - mem - ber that you are dust, and to' are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics 'dust you shall re - turn.' The music consists of quarter and eighth notes with some rests.

*\* May be sung in canon*

Text: Ash Wednesday liturgy

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

Music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

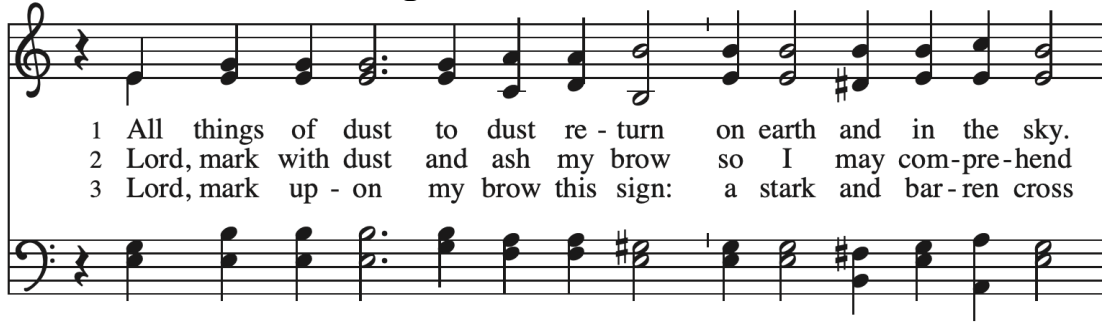
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## Welcome

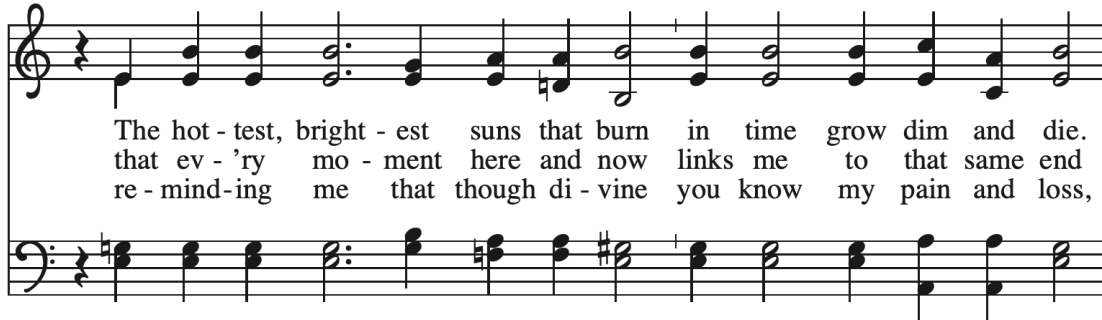
## Gathering Song

(Please remain seated)

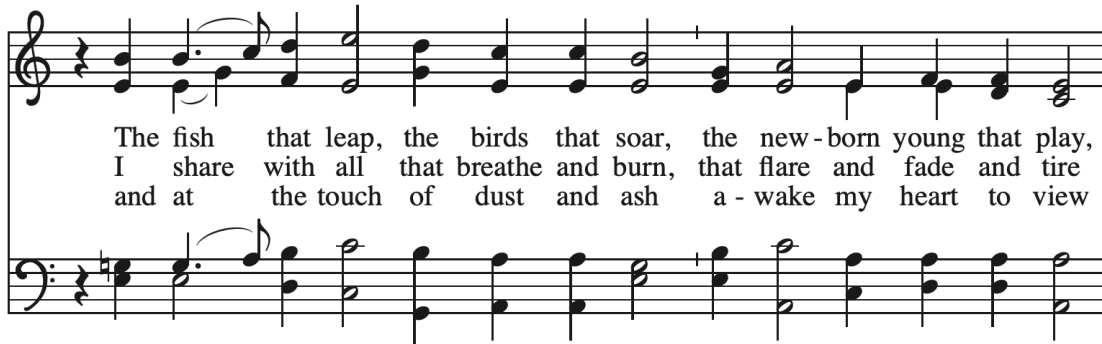
### All Things of Dust to Dust Return



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

Ashes remind us we come from dust, and we will return to dust. The name *Adam* means *dust creature*. For a season we live as dust creatures, born to love and be loved, born to sing and be sung, born to weep, and laugh, and wonder, and heal. After a season, we die into whatever mystery our Creator has in mind.

The ashes we will wear remind us we will die.

What glorious dust we are! For the dust in us is the same dust that makes up the stars which shine on us and bring us to open-mouthed wonder.

The dust in us is billions of years old. It connects us to all that is, all that has come before us, and all that is yet to be. God blew life into this dust, forming us into the image of Divine love and naming us *Very Good*.

The ashes we will wear remind us we are beloved stardust.

The dust of too many places around the world is mixed with ashes of the bodies and dreams and possibilities of too many of God's children killed because too many people with power and too many of the rest of us have chosen to worship the gods of violence, fear, and arrogance.

The ashes we will wear remind us of all those who are dead-too-young because throughout history, we humans have been too afraid to defend people whom the powerful have named *heretic, enemy, different, unwanted, unneeded, unlovable, less-than-human*.

Mortal ... Glorious ... Afraid: The ashes we will wear remind us we are all of these.

And they remind us we are so much more. The ashes we will wear remind us we are followers of the Jesus who came so all creation might have life and all creation might know joy. *Life* and *joy*: The call of these ashes in the lives of all who choose to wear them.

From dust were you made; to dust you shall return.

*When an usher comes to the end of your pew, you may come forward to receive the ashes.*

*Let an usher know if you would like to receive ashes at your seat.*

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

***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**

*(Please remain seated)*

**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....”

“And when you fast, don’t make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get. But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face. Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Abba, who knows what you do in private, and 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**

### **A Hymn of Supplication**

*Don McAfee*

O Lord, have mercy now we pray, and save us by thy steadfast love,  
For we have wandered from thy way:  
Forgive us, forgive us from above,  
from above.

Against thee only do we sin, and we are helpless in thy sight;  
Without thee all is dark within: Lord, lead us,  
Lord lead us by thy light,  
by thy light.

Create within us cleaner hearts, and fashion spirits fresh and new;  
Restore the joy thy love imparts;  
Lord keep us Lord keep us strong and true,  
Strong and true. Amen.

# 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

Text and music © 1986, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.  
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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;**

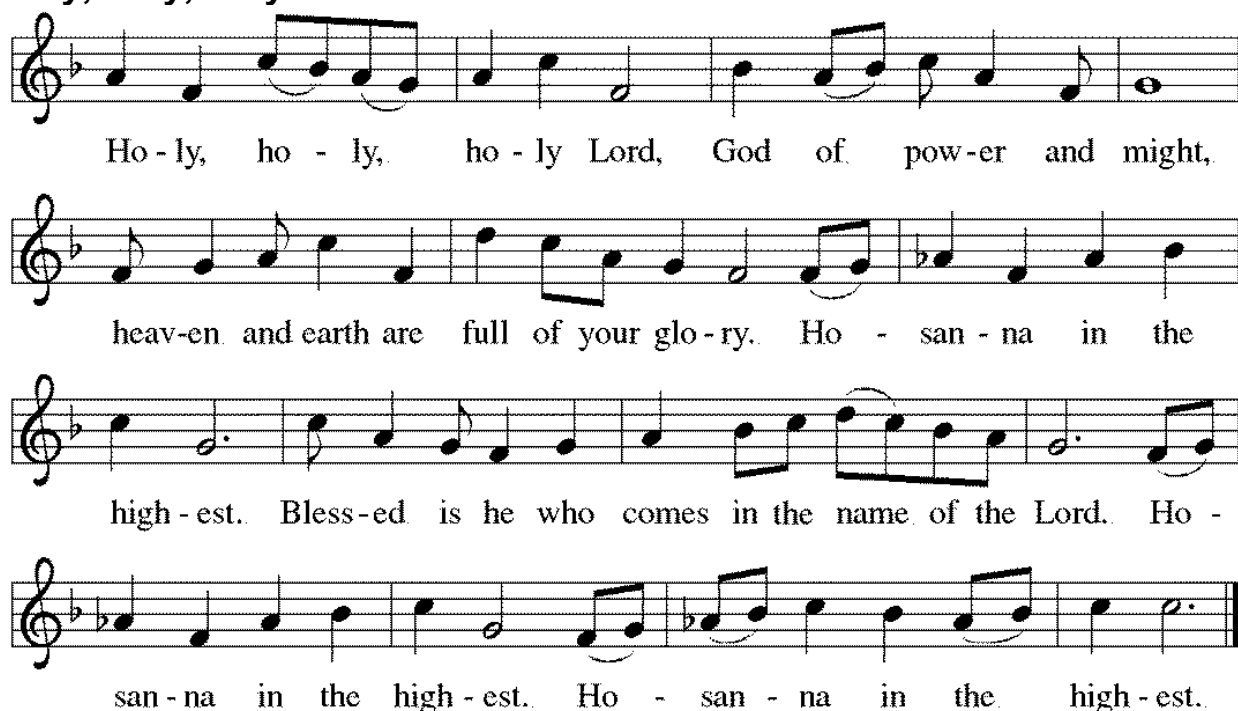
**to spend more time sharing our love instead of fearing it cannot heal or bless.**

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 we wear the ashes of our humanity upon your baptismal seal, so we place the brokenness of our lives on your 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 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 notice all the gifts you offer, we open our hearts to others. As we begin our journey with you, we choose to put no roadblocks on the path to Jerusalem which we walk with you. We choose to travel with each other, and with you. For you promise always to stay by our side. **Amen.**

## Let Your Peace Rain Upon Us



*Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi am - ter a - lay - na ssa - lam,*  
 Let your peace rain up - on us, O liv - ing God of . . . peace.



*ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi im la' qu - lu - ba - na ssa - lam.*  
 Let your peace rain up - on us, Lord, fill our hearts . . with your peace.

Text: Palestinian traditional; tr. Mark Swanson, b. 1955, and Mark Sedio, b. 1954

Music: YARABBA SSALAMI, Palestinian traditional

English text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

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## Depart in silence

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## OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

**Presiding Minister**

David Shull, Pastor

**Cantor**

Connie Criswell

**ASL Interpreter**

Bryan Neal

**Organist & Senior Choir Director**

Kathy Rapp

**Pianist & Chimes Choir Director**

Karen Kent

**Verger**

Michelle Clemence / Wendy Stoica

**Producers**

Tom Mimplitch, Michele Disbro

**Communion Prep**

Kay Ernsthause

# 2024 Lenten Worship

## *Lenten Wednesdays*

### *Ash Wednesday*

*February 14*

*7:00 am*

IN-PERSON

*7:00 pm*

IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM



*February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20*

### *Soup and Conversation*

*Noon*

### *Evening Prayer*

*7:00 pm*

IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM



### *Maundy Thursday*

*March 28*

*7:00 pm with Foot- and Hand- Washing*

IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM



### *Good Friday*

*March 29*

*7:00 pm Worship – Seven Last Words of Christ*

*At Christ United Methodist Church*

*1480 Zettler Rd*

IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM



### *Resurrection of Our Lord*

*Sunday, March 31*

*8:30 am Worship*

IN-PERSON

*9:30 am Easter Brunch*

*11:00 am Worship*

IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM

