



Immanuel Presbyterian Church

Ash Wednesday Service

February 17, 2021

*Discovering and displaying Christ
in here and out there*

Ash Wednesday Online Service

WELCOME

OPENING SENTENCES

PRAYER OF THE DAY

HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This

American Folk Hymn

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Genuine repentance involves two things: the dying-away of the old self and the coming-to-life of the new. The dying-away of the old self is to be genuinely sorry for sin, to hate it more and more, and to run away from it. The coming-to-life of the new self is wholehearted joy in God through Christ and a delight to do every kind of good as God wants us to. Together, as Christ's body, we now confess our sin and express our longing to live in joyful obedience to God.

LITANY OF CONFESSION

One: Save us, O God, from the blindness,

All: which is not even aware that it is sinning;

One: from the pride,

All: which cannot admit that it is wrong;

One: from the self-will,

All: which can see nothing but its own way;

One: from the self-righteousness,

All: which can see no flaw within itself;

One: from the callousness,

All: which has sinned so often that it has ceased to care;

One: from the defiance,

All: which is not even sorry for its sins;

One: from the evasion,

All: which always puts the blame on someone or something else;

One: from the heart so hardened,

All: that it cannot repent.

One: give us at all times,

All: eyes which are open to our faults;

One: a conscience which is sensitive and quick to warn;

All: a heart that cannot sin in peace, but is moved to regret and remorse.

One: So grant that being truly penitent we may be truly forgiven, so that we may find that your love is great enough to cover all of our sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen!

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One: The truth is this: God's love and mercy are never-ending. God knows us in our inward being; God cleanses us from our sins and shortcomings, and restores to us the joy of salvation.

All: Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 90 NRSV

¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. ² Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. ³ You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

⁴ For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. ⁵ You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; ⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

⁷ For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

⁸ You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

⁹ For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh. ¹⁰ The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. ¹¹ Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you. ¹² So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. ¹³ Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on your servants! ¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so

that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. ¹⁵ Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil. ¹⁶ Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. ¹⁷ Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands—O prosper the work of our hands!

One: The grass withers and the flower fades, but the Word of God endures forever.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERIES

A Beginner's Guide to Lent

MEDITATION

Humility 101: Dust

Rev. John C. Tittle

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

All: I believe in Jesus, who rose from the river to see heaven opened to the Spirit falling and the Father calling: "I love you".

I believe in Jesus, who walked the desert to be tried and tempted with the Spirit leading and the devil calling: "If you are".

I believe in Jesus, who stayed forty days there, as he prayed and fasted with his guts hurting and his breath smelling "Turn these stones".

I believe in Jesus, who went with the devil to be offered power with the wild beasts roaring and the angels chanting "Worship God".

I believe in Jesus, who looked down on the city, with a fear of falling with the angels watching and the hard earth waiting "It is written".

I believe in Jesus, truly God, truly human, who was sorely tempted, with the same temptations we all are facing "Yet without sin".

PRAYER FOR LENT

LORD'S PRAYER

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.

SONG

Reckless Love

Culver, Asbury & Jackson

BENEDICTION

*IMPOSITION OF ASHES

We pray God's blessings upon you today and throughout the Lenten season as we prepare our hearts for our Lord's crucifixion and resurrection.

Either you or a loved one may apply the ashes to your forehead, saying,

*From the dust I came, to the dust I will return,
but by the grace of God, I will arise from the ashes.*

The Christian Tradition of Imposition of Ashes

The imposition of ashes on the foreheads of Christians is an ancient Christian practice, going back at least to the 10th century. Biblically ashes were a symbol of purification and penitence (see Numbers 19:9,17, Hebrews 9:13, Jonah 3:6, Matthew 11:21, and Luke 10:13).

In the early church, people who had been separated from the church because of serious sins might seek to be readmitted to the fellowship by observing a formal period of penitence during Lent. These people were generally sprinkled with ashes or given rough garments sprinkled with ashes as a sign of their sorrow for their sins.

Beginning in the tenth century, the observation of Ash Wednesday became a general rite for the church. The ashes, which were a symbol of purification in the Old Testament, remind us that we are mortal. In many churches the ashes are made by burning the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday.

Ashes were placed on the forehead, usually in the sign of a cross, in a ritual known as the Imposition of Ashes. As the ashes were placed on the forehead, words such as these are spoken: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," recalling God's words to Adam in Genesis 3:19.

Participants:

Rev. Dr. John Tittle, Pastor
Abby Tittle, Online Worship Service Producer
Dr. Walter W. Schurr, Director of Music
Will Price, Alternative Worship Service Music Leader
Kris Goorsky, Director of Christian Formation
Carol Van Gelder, vocalist

Acknowledgments:

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Bulletin Art:

"Impact of a second Dust Bowl would be felt worldwide" (Frontiers Science

Original article: "Global implications of a contemporary US Dust Bowl event"



Immanuel Presbyterian Church
9252 E 22nd Street - Tucson, AZ 85710
520-296-2253 - immanuelpc.org