

**A Service of the Word
for
Ash Wednesday**

**March 5, 2025
12:00 Noon and 7:00 PM**

The United Church of Santa Fe
A United Church of Christ



FOR REFLECTION AT THE BEGINNING OF LENT 2025

Who stands firm? Only the one whose ultimate standard is not (their) reason, principles, conscience, freedom, or virtue; only the one who is prepared to sacrifice all of these when, in faith and in relationship to God alone, (they are) called to obedient and responsible action. Such a person is the responsible one, whose life is to be nothing but a response to God's question and call. Where are these responsible ones now?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, New Year's 1943
German Theologian and Pastor—imprisoned by the Nazis, April 1943

WE GATHER OURSELVES FOR THE JOURNEY

Gathering in Silence

*(As you enter into this time of prayer, please turn off cell phones and watch alarms,
so that you and your neighbor may draw closer to God in this time of stillness and silence.)*

Words of Welcome and Breathing in God's Gifts

Gathering with Music

Prelude in E-flat Minor from The Well-tempered Clavier, Book I

J.S. Bach

The Call to Lent from the Prophet Joel, Chapter 2 (cong. bold)

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping; rend your hearts
and not your clothing.

**Let us return to the Lord, our God,
for God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.**
Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
gather the people and return to your God.

Musical Call to Worship

*Kyrie eleison.
Kyrie eleison.*

*Kyrie Eleison
Christe eleison.*

Greek Hymn/Ukrainian Orthodox Chant
Kyrie Eleison.

The Call to Worship (cong. bold)

Be still, and know that God is.

God was, also, in the beginning.

And when all human striving has ceased, God will still be.

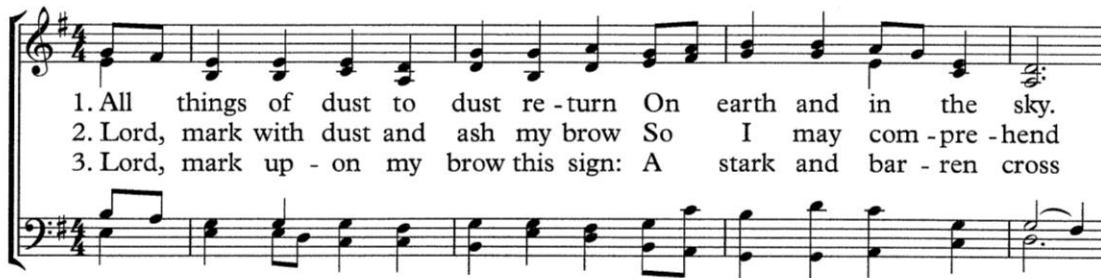
From everlasting to everlasting, God is God and alone is worthy to be worshiped.

Let us sing to God who was, who is, and who will always be.

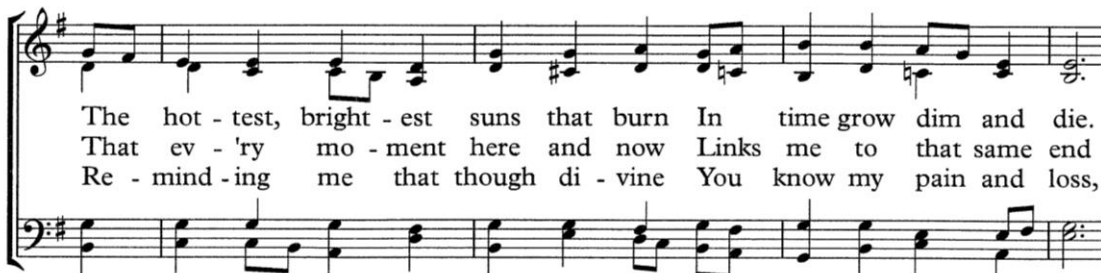
*Hymn

All Things of Dust to Dust Return

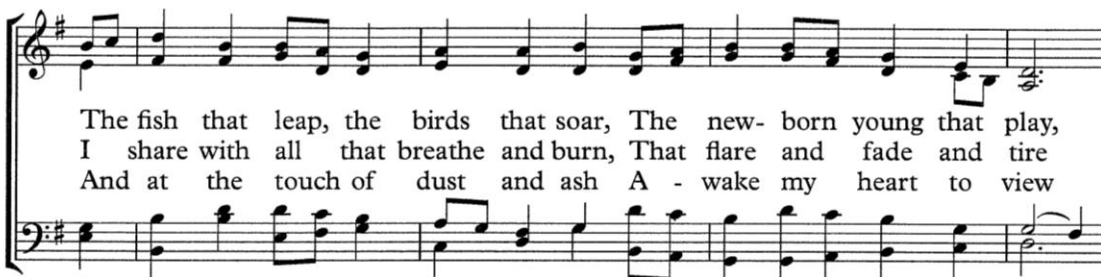
Thomas H. Troeger/Kingsfold



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.

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WE PREPARE

The Call to Confession

A Prayer of Confession from an Ancient Christian Tradition (unison)

Almighty and most merciful God,

we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep.

We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.

We have offended against thy holy laws.

We have left undone those things which we ought to have done,

and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

**But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.
Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults.
Restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto all people in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful God, for Christ's sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.**

Our Prayer in Song

(12:00) 202 ***O God, How We Have Wandered*** (1 & 3) Passion Chorale
(7:00) *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God* Psalm 51/Bradley Ellingboe

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy spirit from me.
Restore unto me to the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

A Time of Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Grace (**cong. bold**)

The Letter to the Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

WE ENGAGE

A Prophet's Call to Fast

Isaiah 58 (cond.)

Shout out, do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet! . . .
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,
and oppress all your workers.
Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?
Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly; . . .
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, . . .
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Reflection

What Do You Want from Us, God?

Musical Reflection *Andante (Aria) in C Major from Violin Sonata No. 3*

J.S. Bach/transcribed Leopold Godowsky

(During this reflection, we invite you to write down the things that keep you from God's new life.)

WE RESPOND

Offering Ourselves in Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Gracious God, you who are present in the morning, day, and evening, we thank you for this time of prayer— for silence in the midst of noise, for music in the midst of clamor, for your peace in our lives. Forgive us for the times we have not waited for that peace, trusting instead our own desires and ambitions. Forgive us for the harm we have done and the good we have left undone toward your people and your creation, be it as individuals, communities, or nations.

(A time of silent prayer)

Open us to your healing presence, O Lord. Remind us always there is more grace in you than sin in us, more wholeness in you than brokenness in us, more life in you than death in us. May that grace, healing, and life renew our souls this night.

Give us the courage to be open to the gift of your new life. Give us the wisdom and the will to use that gift to offer our lives for the sake of your people and your creation throughout this world that you love.

We pray in the name of the One whose journey we begin, who showed how to live our lives for others, and who taught us to pray to you with boldness, courage, and trust saying:

(Please use a version of the Lord's Prayer familiar to you.)

Turning Back to Ashes That Which Keeps Us from the God's Gift of Life

(You are invited to take your paper to the fireplace at the back of the sanctuary and, if you choose, come forward to receive the marking with ashes. You may also remain seated in silent prayer.)

Musical Reflection

From Depths of Need I Cry to You

Morning Song

1. From depths of need I cry to You; Your grace to me im - part
 2. If You should choose to count my sins Or weigh my wor - thi - ness,
 3. But You are gra - cious, God of truth, Be - yond my far - thest thought.

And hear be - neath the words I lack My search - ing, hun - g'ring heart.
 How could I dare to plead my case Be - fore Your right - eous - ness?
 You seek me out with pa - tient love Be - fore I've turned and sought.

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Prayer after the imposition of ashes (unison)

Gracious God, you created us from the dust of the earth and breathed into us the breath of life. As we journey deeper into this season of Lent, create in us clean and strong hearts, O Lord, that we might fulfill our commitment to live our lives in ways that give life to others and to all creation. Help us, Lord, in this season and all seasons to love this world as you so love. Amen.

WE COMMIT OUR LIVES

*Hymn 454 *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* (1, 2, 4) African American Spiritual

*Benediction

*Musical Benediction *Kyrie Eleison* Greek Hymn/Ukrainian Orthodox Chant
Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie Eleison.

Sharing leadership in the 12:00 service are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Minister; Dr. Jacquelyn Helin, Guest Pianist; and Liturgist Nyla Rasmussen. In the 7:00 service, additional leadership is offered by Bradley Ellingboe, Director of Music; the Sanctuary Choir; Liturgist Rev. Ben Larzelere (7:00 pm). The 12:00 noon service is livestreamed by Media Director Elijah Marquez. You were greeted by Diane Darby and Karen Wilbanks (7:00).

Into the Deep

Lent Daily Devotional Booklets Available in Community Room