

Ash Wednesday

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.
Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

—Psalms 51:10-17

Ash Wednesday

February 26, 2020

6:00 pm

GATHERING MUSIC

Marilyn Arland

WELCOME

Jake Maxwell

Self-Examination

MEDITATION ON ASH WEDNESDAY

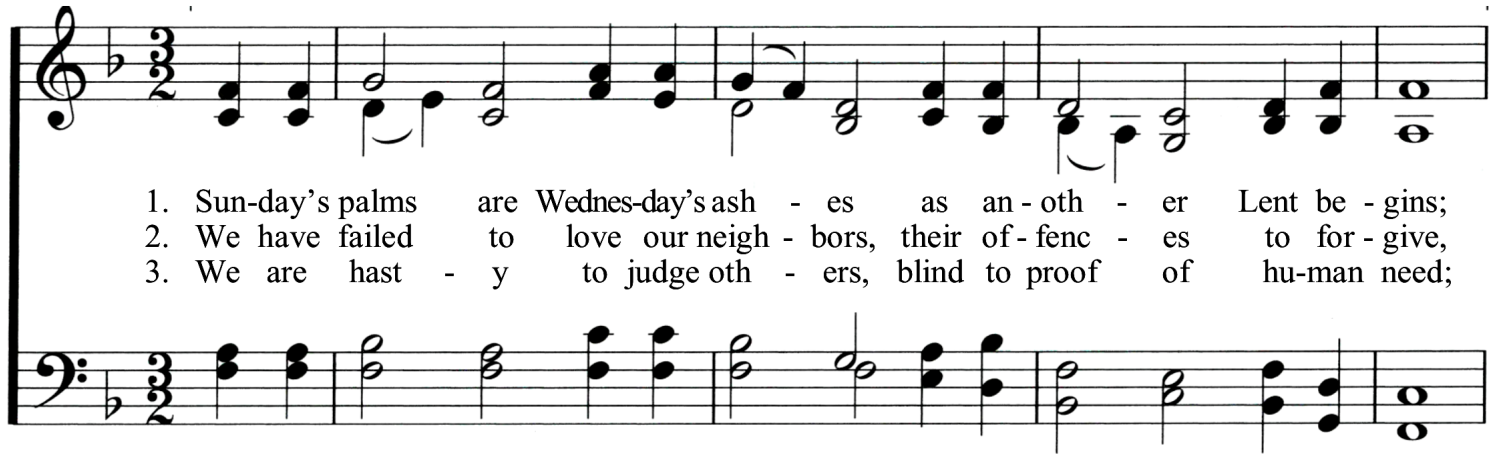
Jake Maxwell

Friends, we begin today our journey toward Easter. We enter the Lenten season to prepare ourselves to welcome the risen One with lives renewed by the breath of the Spirit.

God of our salvation, we long to be reconciled to you. We assume the disciplines of self-examination, confession, and penitence. Increase in us knowledge and patience, kindness and holiness of spirit, genuine love and truthful speech, so that, by the power of God at work in us, we may live even as we are dying and rejoice even in our sorrows. We seek to be faithful disciples of Christ.

INVOCATION

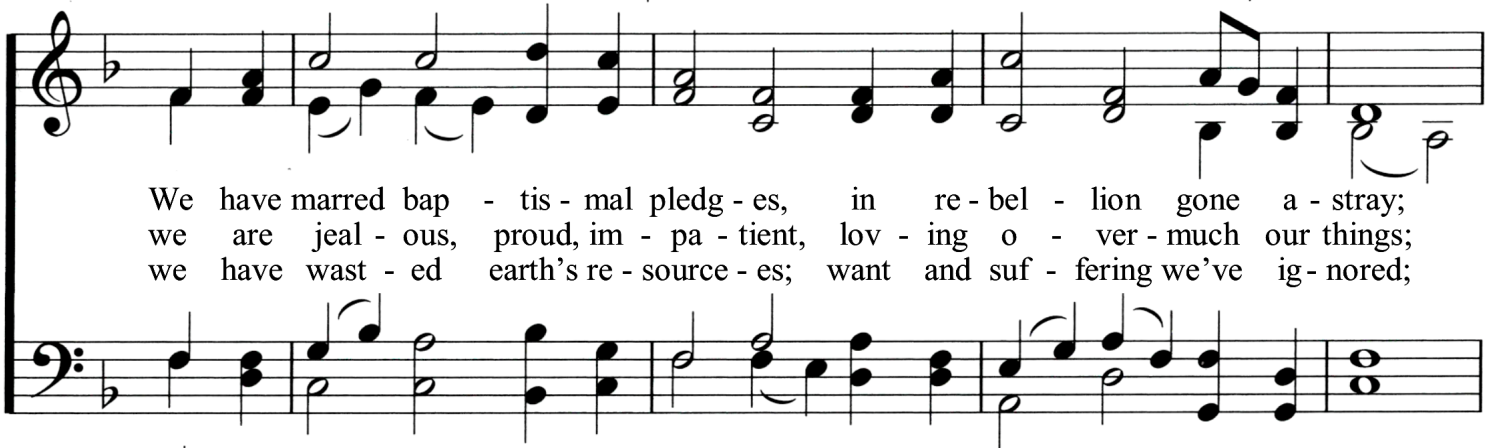
Sheryl Gallarneau

Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes


1. Sun-day's palms are Wednes-day's ash - es as an - oth - er Lent be - gins;
 2. We have failed to love our neigh - bors, their of - fenc - es to for - give,
 3. We are hast - y to judge oth - ers, blind to proof of hu - man need;



thus we kneel be - fore our Mak - er in con - tri - tion for our sins.
 have not lis - tened to their trou - bles, nor have cared just how they live,
 and our lack of un - der - stand - ing dem - on - strates our in - ner greed;



We have marred bap - tis - mal pledg - es, in re - bel - lion gone a - stray;
 we are jeal - ous, proud, im - pa - tient, lov - ing o - ver - much our things;
 we have wast - ed earth's re - source - es; want and suf - fering we've ig - nored;



now, re - turn - ing, seek for - give - ness; grant us par - don, God, this day!
 may the yield - ing of our fail - ings be our Len - ten of - fer - ings.
 come and cleanse us, then re - store us; make new hearts with - in us, Lord!

Confession

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION (from Psalm 51:1-17)

Scott Herrington

Sing: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Have mercy on me O God in your great kindness: in the fullness of your mercy blot out my offenses. Wash away all my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

Sing: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

For I acknowledge my faults: and my sin is always before me. Against you only have I sinned and done evil in your sight.

Sing: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Create in me a clean heart O God: and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence: do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

Sing: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Give me the joy of your help again: and strengthen me with a willing spirit. O Lord open my lips: and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Sing: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Penitence

HYMN OF PENITENCE

HAMBURG

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

arranged by Fred C. Mallory

When I survey the wondrous cross, On which the Prince of glory died
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride

Forbid it Lord that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ my God
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood

See from His head His hands His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did ever such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small
Love so amazing so divine, Demands my soul my life my all!

LITANY OF PENITENCE (from Joel 1:1-2, 12-14)

Savanna Craft

The word of the Lord that came to Joel.

Hear this all who live in the land.

Put on sackcloth,

mourn and cry.

Wear it all night

for we are neglecting God.

Declare a holy fast

call a sacred assembly.

Gather the community

and cry out to God.

Lord, have mercy!

Make haste, O God

and deliver me.

Lord, have mercy.

O Lord,

make haste to help me.

Lord, have mercy!

SONG OF PENITENCE

CHANGE MY HEART

Change My Heart, O God

Change my heart oh God, Make it ever true
Change my heart oh God, May I be like You

You are the potter, I am the clay
Mold me and make me, This is what I pray

Change my heart oh God, Make it ever true
Change my heart oh God, May I be like You

¹“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. ²“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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵“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. ⁶But 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. ¹⁶“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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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. ¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

HOMILY

Jake Maxwell

MINISTRY OF SILENCE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR THE ASHES

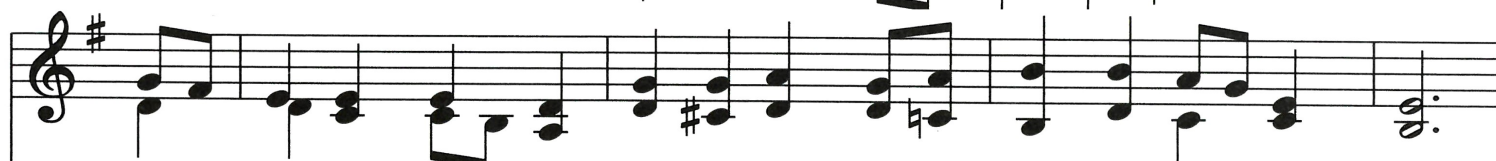
Sheryl Gallarneau

Loving God,
you create us from the dust of the earth;
may these ashes be for us a sign
of our penitence and our mortality,
and a reminder that only by the cross
do we receive eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

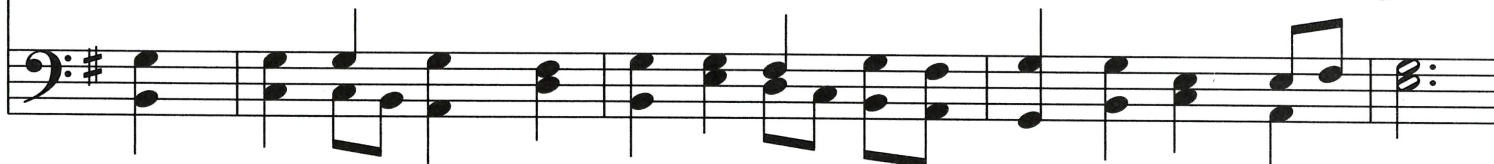
IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES (remain seated until it is time for your row to come forward)

I Take the Cross of Jesus Christ

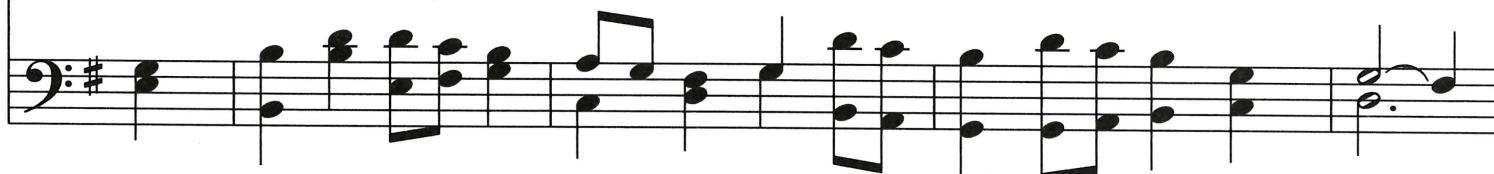
1. I take the cross of Je - sus Christ in ash - es on my face.
 2. O cross of ash - es, speak a - gain in ways I un - der - stand;
 3. This cross of ash - es on my brow re - minds me life is brief.



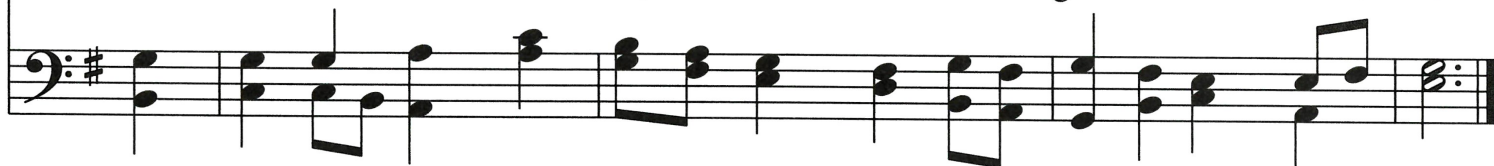
This an - cient sym - bol made in dust re - minds me of His grace.
 speak forth re - pen - tance, let me know for - give - ness from Your hand.
 From dust I came, to dust I go through sor - row, pain, and grief.



I beg for mer - cy from my Lord, to cleanse me deep with - in.
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray; look deep with - in and find
 These for - ty days are set a - side for those who share the call



I know my self, my fault - y life, my ten - den - cy toward sin.
 our hearts made whole, our thoughts made pure, our eyes no long - er blind.
 to take the cross, de - ny them - selves, and give to Christ their all.



Create in Me a Clean Heart

Ash Wednesday has been honored by Christians through the ages. It is the beginning of Lent, the six-week season of preparation for Easter.

Just as Job repented “in dust and ashes,” (Job 42:6) so did the earliest Christians who had ashes sprinkled on their bodies as an outward sign of repentance. This outward sign, however, speaks of two decisions occurring at the same time - repentance and belief.

The starkness of the season reflects the stark honesty with which we approach God and gives us permission to freely acknowledge our own imperfections before God and with each other. The external sign reflects an internal decision to follow, to forgive each other, and to forgive ourselves. This constant reaffirmation of ourselves must become a way of life and is never done once and for all.

Ash Wednesday calls us to self-examination and is a continual practice of honesty, repentance, forgiveness, and acceptance. The culmination of this self-acceptance is the bodily resurrection of Christ, dying for us and truly risen in love...from the ashes of our sin. This is both the brutal, and the beautiful, honesty of the cross.

-Emily Sharp

Ash Wednesday

