



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020
6:30 PM

PRELUDE

“PASTORALE”
Tim Hendrix, Organ

D. Wagner

ANGELUS BELL

WELCOME

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

PRAYER IN SONG

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART
with readings from Psalm 51

Moen

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

Amanda Atkin

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, You are compassionate beyond comparison,
loving beyond imagination, and faithful beyond our betrayal.
Just as the psalmist declares, "our sin is ever before us."
We raise up our transgressions as a new beginning; we have become stained with wrongdoing,
sacrificing the goodness of your love for the demise of this world.
We have abandoned your law, caring less for your creation and more for our own ambition.
Wash us clean, God of mercies, and deliver us.
Help us to hear your voice calling us back, remind us of your love bringing us home,
and renew our spirits that we might believe the covenant again.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, we pray in our hearts...

Silent reflection

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S MERCY

HYMN 319

NEAR THE CROSS
Stanzas 1, 2 and 3

NEAR THE CROSS

SCRIPTURE READING

JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17

April Alston

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

HYMN 648

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

BEACH SPRING

Stanzas 1 - 3

IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

BLESSING

“BLESSING OF THE DUST”

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

All those days
you felt like dust,
like dirt,
as if all you had to do
was turn your face
toward the wind
and be scattered
to the four corners

or swept away
by the smallest breath
as insubstantial—

did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?

This is the day
we freely say
we are scorched.

This is the hour
we are marked
by what has made it
through the burning.

This is the moment
we ask for the blessing
that lives within
the ancient ashes,
that makes its home
inside the soil of
this sacred earth.

So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.
Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less
than we are

but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made
and the stars that blaze
in our bones
and the galaxies that spiral
inside the smudge
we bear.

—Jan Richardson

from *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*

You are welcome to remain in this space. Whether you stay or exit, please do so in silence.



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