



Full { With all
to the Brim } that you
are

Cover Art: *Stardust* by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Inspired by Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Acrylic on raw canvas with digital drawing

Many of us begin Lent with ashen marks smudged against our foreheads, the oil glistening on our skin throughout the rest of the day. It's a mark that is holy because it tells the truth: we are formed from the dust, and to dust we shall one day return. We are not immortal. Death will one day find us all.

However, as we've crafted this Lenten series around the theme, *Full to the Brim*, we've found ourselves asking for more from our Lenten journey. Yes, death will surely find me one day, inhaling me into that infinite abyss. But the cross on my forehead only tells me part of the story. The empty tomb tells me a fuller, more expansive truth: death will not have the last word. There is more. God is more.

This expansive truth requires more of us. It invites us to abandon empty or showy practices of faith, and instead, draw inward to open ourselves to a deeper journey of transformation. It requires me to believe that I am truly worthy of love, belonging, and grace. It requires me to believe others are also.

In this Lenten season, we've reimagined this Ash Wednesday ritual. What if, instead of ashes, gold gleamed on our foreheads? What if, alongside the certainty of death, we are also reminded of God's expansive grace? What if on this day we said to one another, "From stardust you have come, and to stardust you shall one day return"?

— Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

The Worship of God
Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, March 2, 2022

All are invited to sing during the congregational songs in worship!
*We ask that you please **wear a mask at all times while indoors** out of an abundance of caution and out of respect for the health and safety of all people joining us for worship.*

Prelude "O Lord Most Holy (Panus Angelicus)" by César Franck
Christian McIvor and Tim Hendrix

Welcome Chrissy Tatum Williamson

† **Sung Call to Worship** "Full to the Brim" Words and Music by Christian McIvor ©2022

♩ = 152

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of D major (indicated by two sharps), and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked as 152 beats per minute. The score consists of four staves of music, each with lyrics underneath. Chord symbols are placed above the staff at various points: C(add9), D, G, C(add9) on the first staff; D, G, C(add9) on the second staff; D, Em7, D, C(add9) on the third staff; and G/B, Am7, D(sus4), D, G, C(add9), G on the fourth staff. The lyrics are: 'Full to the brim, God's love is over-flow-ing. Full to the brim, God's grace, in us, is grow-ing. Let us pour out liv-ing streams as we real-ize God's dream, liv-ing lives that are full to the brim.'

Full to the brim, God's love is ov - er - flow - ing.

Full to the brim, God's grace, in us, is grow - ing.

Let us pour out liv - ing streams as we real - ize God's

dream, liv - ing lives that are full to the brim.

† Please rise in body or spirit.

Call to Confession

Anna Beth Cross

Lent can sometimes get a negative reputation. It's viewed as the season in our faith when we give things up, we prepare for the worst. However, I cannot help but imagine that God wants more for us than just six weeks of discipline or six weeks without chocolate. I cannot help but imagine that God wants a life for us so expansive that faith, joy, and hope flow over the edges. So let us confess, not because we have to suffer our way through Lent, but because the truth moves us one step closer to that expansive faith. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession and Words of Forgiveness

One: Holy God, I confess: I don't return to you fully.
I share with you the pieces of my life that are convenient.
I put on different hats in different rooms.
I forget that I am called, invited, and loved with all that I am—
including my mess, my beauty, my faith, and my doubt.
Forgive me, and give me a heart that longs to return.

All: Friend, God sees you. God hears you. God loves you. You are forgiven and claimed with all that you are. Rest in that good news.

One: Thanks be to God, amen.

**All: Holy God, we confess: we don't return to you fully.
We share with you the pieces of our lives that are convenient.
We put on different hats in different rooms.
We forget that we are called, invited, and loved with all that we are—
including our mess, our beauty, our faith, and our doubt.
Forgive us, and give us hearts that long to return.**

One: Friends, God sees you. God hears you. God loves you. You are forgiven and claimed with all that you are. Rest in that good news.

All: Thanks be to God, amen.

† Hymn

"Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven"

LAUDA ANIMA;

Words by Henry Francis Lyte,
adapt. Ecumenical Women's Center,
Music by John Goss

**Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!**

**Praise God for the grace and favor shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing our Maker's faithfulness!**

(cont'd on next page)

Like a loving parent caring, God knows well our feeble frame,
gladly all our burdens bearing, still to countless years the same.
Alleluia! Alleluia! All within me, praise God's name!

Angels, teach us adoration; you behold God face to face.
Sun and moon and all creation, dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Scripture Reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Steve Rose

Meditation

"With all that you are"

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Silent Reflection

† Hymn 293

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

NETTLETON;

Words by Rusty Edwards,
Traditional American Melody
from *Wyeth's Respository of Sacred Music*

God of grace and God of glory, on Thy people pour Thy pow'r.
Crown Thine ancient Church's story; bring her bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom; Grant us courage for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom; Grant us courage for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Cure Thy children's warring madness; Bend our pride to Thy control.
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom: Grant us courage lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places; Gird our lives that they may be
armored with all Christ-like graces in the fight to set men free.
Grant us wisdom; Grant us courage that we fail not man nor Thee,
that we fail not man nor Thee.

Imposition of the Ashes

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Always and forever,
you are a child of God.

Blessing

As you leave this place,
may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world.
May you laugh, and may it be contagious.
May you overflow with love for those around you.
May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy. And in all of your living,
and breathing, and being, may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit,
and may it change your life.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself—
go in peace, full to the brim. Amen.

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*With Christ as the Cornerstone, we will build a church of living stones,
where every member is a minister and is equipped to express God's love
by word and deed to all people.*

Based on 1 Peter 2:5, 6

Connect:

Church Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 PM (M-Th) | Phone: (919) 847-1333 | Email: office@greystonechurch.org

Website: www.greystonechurch.org | Facebook: @greystonebaptistchurch | Instagram: @greystonechurch

Greystone Baptist Church
7509 Lead Mine Road
Raleigh, NC 27615