

**St. Paul's UCC & St. Lucas UCC
A SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR
ASH WEDNESDAY**

OPENING MUSIC Lisa Wassner
"Solemn Litany" (Paxton)

GREETING AND CALL TO WORSHIP Grace Blondin
Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People: God's mercy endures forever.

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE
OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE Pastor Bill Wassner

*OPENING SONG
"See! Now is the Time!"
(sung to tune "O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!")

**See! Now is the time! Salvation has come!
We thank you, O God, for all you have done.
You entered our world and redeemed us from sin;
Through Christ, we're made righteous; our life is in him.**

**O God, may your church bear witness to Christ
Who brings us to you and shares in our life.
May we who are loved and forgiven this day
Show others the blessings of living your way.**

**God, count us as those who serve in your name;
Give strength to endure through hardship and pain;
Give patience and kindness and holiness, too,
And love as we seek to bring others to you.**

*CALL TO CONFESSION Mekaylah Bryant

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION Pastor Mary Hurley
**Holy, holy, holy God, we place ourselves in Your presence;
we rest in the promise of Your grace. Our minds and our
spirits are cluttered with many thoughts and feelings that
threaten to pull our attention away from You. Let us
unclench our fists and release these things:**

**We release all that we have done today—whether for
good or for ill.
We release all that we feel like we should have done
today but did not do.
We release all that we need to do tomorrow.
We release our fear. We release our anxiety.
We release our impatience. We release our pride.
All of the thoughts, all of the feelings that pull us away
from You, O God, we release.**

**Fill us now with the joy and the peace of Your deep, abiding
Presence. We offer all of ourselves to You, our One God,
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. Amen**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SPECIAL MUSIC Combined Choirs
"A Willing Heart" (Fetlla)

SCRIPTURE READING
Psalm 51: 1-17

REFLECTION Pastor Mary

SONG # 474 (1, 2)
"Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"

SCRIPTURE READING
Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18

REFLECTION Pastor Bill

SONG # 472 (1, 4)
"Take Time to Be Holy"

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

**Almighty God, You have created us out of the dust of the
earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our
mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that
only by Your gracious gift are we given everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*IMPOSITION OF ASHES

PRAYER OF PURPOSE Lason Hayes

RESPONSE
"Lord, listen to your children praying..." (Medema)
**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

PRAYER OF PURPOSE Kylen Hazelwood

RESPONSE

PRAYER OF PURPOSE Gabe Raber

RESPONSE

PRAYER OF PURPOSE Grace Thorn

RESPONSE

*THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "Debts" and "Debtors")

*CLOSING SONG # 151 (1, 3, 5)
"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

*GOING FORTH IN SILENCE

God we are marked with ashes,
Symbols of repentant hearts,
And contrite spirits.
We want to be transformed,
To be made new,
To learn the freedom,
Of serving no other master but you.
Let us heed your call,
And walk with Christ,
Into the wilderness.
Help us to see beneath the surface,
Not denial and sacrifice,
Not sin and death,
But transformation,
New life in Christ.
Let us seek to be changed,
Let us seek to be so transfigured
by your power and glory,
That we desire above all else
To become worthy citizens,
Of your new world of peace and justice.
Amen.



Blessing the Dust For Ash Wednesday

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

2016 update: "Blessing the Dust" appears in my new book
Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons.



During the
*Season
of Lent*
contemplate
your heart and
look at our
world with
Hope.

Rev. Dr. William J. Wassner, Senior Pastor
Rev. Mary Hurley, Associate Pastor
Katie Maurer, Director of Music Ministries
Lisa Wassner, Organist

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Ash Wednesday
February 26, 2020
6:00 PM



St. Paul's
To Belong and Serve