

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17, 2021

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

Creator God,

There is a rumbling in us that won't let go.

It stirs in us like the wind stirs leaves—inviting us to move, drawing us forth. When we're quiet, we know that rumble is the Holy Spirit,

Dancing love awake in us.

So we're here.

And we're still.

And we're quiet.

And on this first day of Lent, we're asking you to draw near.

As we hear your scripture read aloud, open the door for us to move. Invite us in. Rumble us awake.

Gratefully we pray, Amen.

HYMN no. 544 Bless the Lord



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 58: 1-12

INVITATION TO THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

From dust you came, and to dust you shall return."

Genesis 3:19b

We name all that is hard or heavy in this moment.

We set our intentions for the Lenten journey.

“BLESSING THE DUST” By Jan Richardson

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.

HYMN 227 *Jesus, Remember Me*

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

BENEDICTION

God of open doors,

Open arms,

And open conversations,

We know

Deep in our souls

That you are forever inviting us in.

Again and again,

You invite us to take another step closer,

Another step deeper,

Another step further,

In this journey of faith.

So with your invitation in our hands, We

pray for strength and wisdom. Show us

the next right step in this journey. We are
here.

You are here.

This is holy ground.

May this holy Lenten journey

begin Once again.

Gratefully we pray,

Amen.

CLOSING MUSIC

We invite you, if you would like, to make the sign of the cross on your hand or forehead with soil as we begin our Lenten journey.

Portions of the liturgy adapted from A Sanctified Art and Jan Richardson.