

***PRAYER SERVICE***  
***February 22, 2023***



Let today be the  
day you give up  
who you've been  
for you who can  
become.

***Blessed Ash Wednesday***

Greeting and Invitation to Lenten Discipline

Special Music: *'Dona Nobis Pacem'* – Adult Choir, Clayton McDaniel, Music Leader/Guitarist;  
David Hutchings, Pianist/Organist

Call to Worship

Leader: Behold, now is the acceptable time. Today is the day of God's salvation.

**People: We tremble in fear and anticipation at the nearness of a God  
so great and powerful.**

Leader: Return with all your heart, with weeping, fasting, and mourning.

**People: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Leader: Be reconciled to God, through Christ Jesus, and receive a new and right spirit within.

**People: We will fast and pray as an inner discipline, preparing ourselves  
for faithful discipleship.**

Opening Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Creator God, You fashioned us out of dust, breathing Your Spirit into us, so we might sing Your praise. But we have denounced Your gift of life in order to be our own gods, clinging to death-dealing idols of our own making. We have denied our creaturely status, seeking to lord it over those we label "less-than." We believe survival-of-the-fittest lies, discounting the weak, and profiting by others' pain. Not trusting in Your providence, we stop our ears to cries of those in need because we're afraid we won't have enough. We have been unfaithful stewards, O Lord. We live in a state of sin among a people of sin. Save for Your grace, we perish. Remember our making, Creator God; remember we are dust. Have mercy on us according to Your loving kindness. Breathe new life into us once more, so we might be the people You created us to be. Restore unto us the joy of Your salvation that we might do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

Imposition of Ashes

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture: **Psalm 51** (p. 562, pew Bible), **Joel 2:1-2,12-14** (p. 901, pew Bible),  
**Luke 5:27-31** (p. 1020, pew Bible)

Special Music: *'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross'* (p. 223, red hymnal)

Ash Wednesday Reflection: ***'What is True Repentance'*** – Pastor Jason Bryant

Charge and Benediction