

**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 22, 2023**  
**7:00 pm**  
**(Online only)**



**Lector: David Bray**

**Prelude:** *Meditation* Hurford

**Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement:** Rev. Shelagh MacKinnon

**Lighting the Christ Candle:** David Bray

**Call to Worship:** David

**Lighting the Tenebrae Candles:** David/Shelagh

**Hymn:** VU 105 *Dust and Ashes* (v.1) Annalysa Tylor

Dust and ashes touch our face,  
mark our failure and our falling.  
Holy Spirit, come,  
walk with us tomorrow,  
take us as disciples,

washed and wakened by your calling.  
 Take us by the hand and lead us,  
 lead us through the desert sands,  
 bring us living water,  
 Holy Spirit, come.

**Scripture:** *Amos 5: 21-24 (CEB)* David

I hate, I reject your festivals;  
 I don't enjoy your joyous assemblies.  
 If you bring me your entirely burned offerings and gifts of food—  
 I won't be pleased;  
 I won't even look at your offerings of well-fed animals.  
 Take away the noise of your songs;  
 I won't listen to the melody of your harps.  
 But let justice roll down like waters,  
 and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

*Hymn: VU 105 (v. 2) Annalysa Tylor*

Dust and ashes soil our hands -  
 greed of market, pride of nation.  
 Holy Spirit, come,  
 walk with us tomorrow  
 as we pray and struggle  
 through the meshes of oppression.  
 Take us by the hand and lead us,  
 lead us through the desert sands,  
 bring us living water,  
 Holy Spirit, come.

**Psalm 27** David [Please join online at home where indicated)

**27** God is my light and my salvation.

Should I fear anyone?

God is a fortress protecting my life.

Should I be frightened of anything?

**<sup>2</sup> When evildoers come at me trying to eat me up—**

**it's they, my foes and my enemies,  
who stumble and fall!**

<sup>3</sup> If an army camps against me,  
my heart won't be afraid.

If war comes up against me,  
I will continue to trust in this:

<sup>4</sup> I have asked one thing from God —  
it's all I seek:

to live in God 's house all the days of my life,  
seeing God 's beauty  
and constantly adoring his temple.

<sup>5</sup> **Because he will shelter me in his own dwelling  
during troubling times;  
he will hide me in a secret place in his own tent;  
he will set me up high, safe on a rock.**

<sup>6</sup> Now my head is higher than the enemies surrounding me,  
and I will offer sacrifices in God's tent—  
sacrifices with shouts of joy!

I will sing and praise God.

<sup>7</sup> **God , listen to my voice when I cry out—  
have mercy on me and answer me!**

<sup>8</sup> Come, my heart says, seek God's face.<sup>[a]</sup>  
God, I do seek your face!

<sup>11</sup> God, teach me your way;  
because of my opponents, lead me on a good path.

<sup>12</sup> Don't give me over to the desires of my enemies,  
because false witnesses and violent accusers  
have taken their stand against me.

<sup>13</sup> **But I have sure faith  
that I will experience God's goodness  
in the land of the living!**

<sup>14</sup> Hope in God!  
Be strong! Let your heart take courage!  
Hope in God!

This is part of our story.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn: VU 105 (v. 3) Annalysa Tylor*

Dust and ashes choke our tongue  
in the wasteland of depression.  
Holy Spirit, come,  
walk with us tomorrow  
through all gloom and grieving  
to the paths of resurrection.  
Take us by the hand and lead us,  
lead us through the desert sands,  
bring us living water,  
Holy Spirit, come.

[Video]

**Ritual of Ashes: Shelagh**

[Our ritual of receiving ashes at home is through the use of substances like a powder, flour, or even soil, making a cross or other symbol on our bodies.]

**Prayers of the People: David**

**Hymn:** MV 84 *In You There Is a Refuge* (tune: Aurelia VU 331)

**Benediction:** Shelagh

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