



Ebensburg Presbyterian Church
Ash Wednesday
February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday

Opening (responsively)

From dust we came, and to dust we shall return.

While we are here, we worship the living God.

We have nothing and yet possess everything.

We are dying, and yet we are alive!

THE WORD

Old Testament Reading: Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 Pg. 740

Psalm Reading: Psalm 95:8-11 Pg. 479

A BRIEF DEVOTION

New Testament Reading: Romans 8:1-8 Pg. 918

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Pg. 787

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsively) Psalm 51:1-1

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your faithful love! According to your great mercy, wipe away our wrongdoings.

For we have sinned against you, choosing comfort over compassion, and selfish gain over self-giving service.

With delight, you knit us together in secret and gave us hearts for love. But so often these hearts lust after the empty gods of this world and cause you distress. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.

Have mercy on us, O God, for we tear away at your vision of shalom. You yearn for creation to flourish, but we privilege our own security over the welfare of all.

Rather than breaking the yoke, we are complicit in systems that oppress. Rather than sharing of your abundance, we satisfy our own hearts and sate our own appetites.

We pass by those who are desperate, when we could offer refuge or respite. We overlook those who are downtrodden, when we could offer comfort or care. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.

Have mercy on us, O God, and transform our lives. Purge our hearts and homes, our community and country of words that diminish and actions that harm.

Have mercy on us, O God, and renew our spirits. Draw near to us that we might draw near to you— not with superficial repentance, but with a deep desire to walk in your ways.

Have mercy on us, O God, and restore to us salvation's joy. Set us on the path of justice and righteousness, so that our light might break forth like the dawn.

Create in us a clean heart, O God, And put a new and right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence, and restore in us the joy of your salvation. From dust we came and to dust we shall return. While we are here, O God, forgive us of our sins, and teach us to use every minute from our birth to our grave for the glory of your reign. Amen

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (responsively)

Hear these words of promise:

The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places. You shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail.

God's grace washes over us, cleansing our hearts and renewing our spirits.

Friend, know that you are forgiven and be at peace!

Thanks be to God!

SENDING (responsively)

Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. Repent and believe the Good News: God longs for you to be whole.

The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faith-ful in all he does. The LORD upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.

May God strengthen you in all goodness

May he nurture you in his gracious mercy And keep you unto eternal life. **Amen**