Ash Wednesday

March 2, 7:00 PM



PRELUDE

Aria

Paul Manz, 1989

WELCOME







WORDS: Psalm 102:1-2, adapt.
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)
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CALL TO WORSHIP

From the shadows of isolation and shutdowns,

We gather to be with our God, who brings us the light of hope.

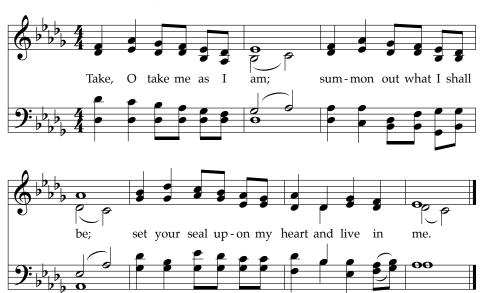
From the silence of our homes or in socially distanced worship spaces,

We gather to be with Jesus, who will not let anything, now or ever, separate us.

From the hollowness of our hearts and with the hunger for human touch,

We gather to be with the Spirit, who feeds us for the Lenten journey, who marks us as God's very own.

SONG Take, O Take Me As I Am (2x)



The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as "Just as I Am" (see no. 442).

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 58:3 – 4

'Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?'

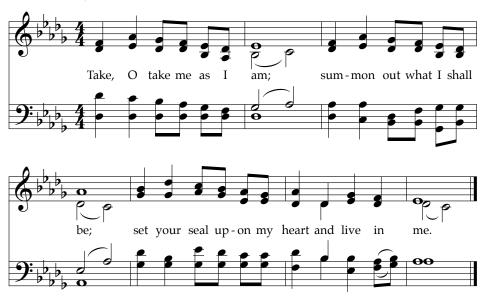
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

SILENT REFLECTION

SONG Take, O Take Me As I Am



TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1995
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TAKE ME AS I AM 7.7.7.4

Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

SILENT REFLECTION

SONG Take, O Take Me As I Am



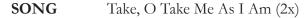
TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1995
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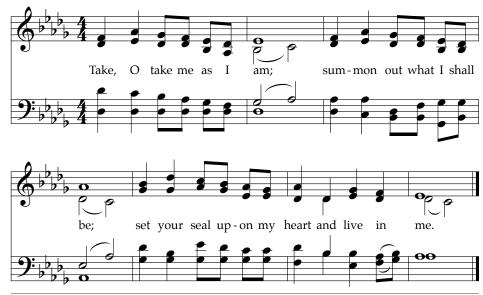
TAKE ME AS I AM 7.7.7.4

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly.

REFLECTION





TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1995
Text and Music © 1995 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

TAKE ME AS I AM 7.7.7.4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION using the 51st Psalm

Have mercy on me, O God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offense.
O wash me more and more of my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

My offenses truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done.

Indeed you love truth in the heart; then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom. O purify me, then I shall be clean; O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

BLESSING THE DUST FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

By Jan Richardson

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

SONG Jesus, Remember Me (sing until everyone has received ashes)



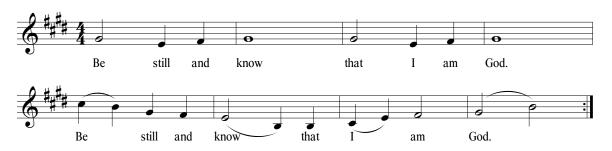


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DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Our God is ever merciful. In infinite grace, God made us and called us good. We are good. In infinite compassion, God gave us the Christ, who said, "You are good." We are good. We are already forgiven, even before we asked. Receive and accept the forgiveness of God through the grace of Jesus the Christ.

SONG Be Still and Know



John Bell, 1989 Text and Music © 1989, WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland) Used with permission.

Go now, bearing your ashes and picking up your cross to follow Christ on this Lenten journey.

In the name of the One who made us, the One who saves us, and the One who goes with us now, go in peace.

Lenten Wednesday Worship with communion

A 30-minute worship service with testimonies followed by a continental breakfast in the Great Room

Wednesdays in Lent, 7:00 AM

Sanctuary and livestream

HOLY WEEK

We invite you to visit our Prayer Stations and Labyrinth, designed for all ages, for reflection and prayer throughout Holy Week.

Palm Sunday & Confirmation April 10 Worship 10:00 AM, Sanctuary and livestream

Maundy Thursday April 14
Dinner Church 6:30 PM
Sign up in advance on the church website

Good Friday April 15

Worship 12:00 PM, Sanctuary and livestream Tenebrae Service 7:30 PM, Sanctuary and livestream Good Friday Vigil 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Sanctuary

