

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

6:30 PM



PRELUDE

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Mueller

WELCOME



WORDS FOR WORSHIP

Tune my heart.

Like an old violin, like a worn down piano,
I have been left out in all manners of weather;
I have been left alone for far too long.

So like a concertmaster with a steady hand,
tune me up.

Listen and learn the cracked keys,
the broken strings.

Memorize the forgotten intervals that even
I did not know.

And then, when we're ready,
When this creaky heart is tuned,
teach me a new song.



HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing NETTLETON

**Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love!**



**Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.**



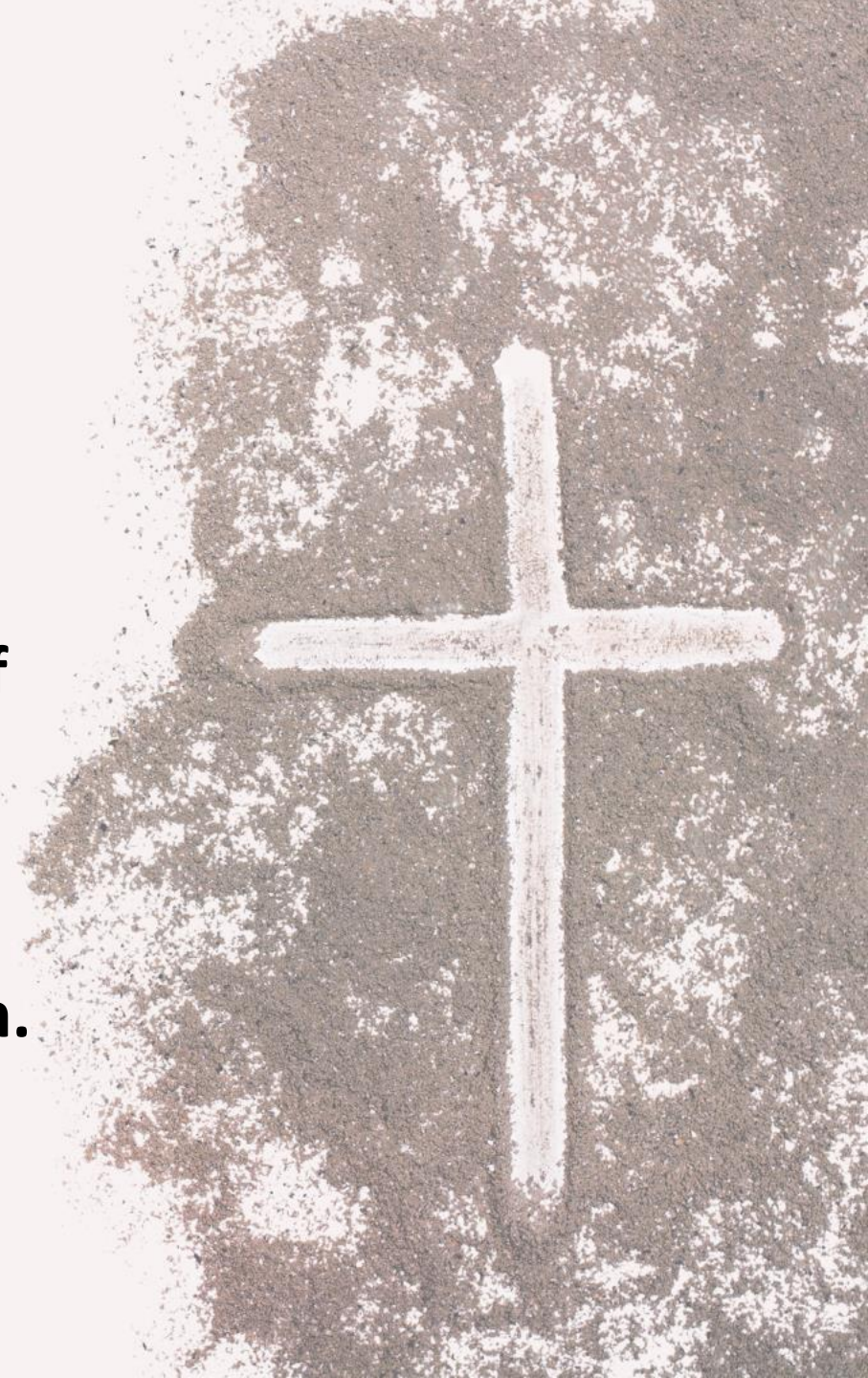
**O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart; O take and seal it;
Seal it for thy courts above.**



UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, who makes all things new:
new stars, new dust, new life; take my heart,
every hardened edge and measured beat,
and create something new in me.
I need your newness, God, the rough parts of
me made smooth; the stagnant, stirred;
the stuck, freed; the unkind, forgiven.
And then, by the power of your Spirit,
I need to be turned toward Love again. Amen.**

*We pause for a moment of silent,
personal confession.*



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: As Lent begins, know that God understands how we struggle to stay open and compassionate. The invitation is not to focus on our inadequacies, but on God's gift of grace and love, which transforms our hearts and minds. That gift is given to us again, here and now. Be encouraged. May the peace of God be with you,

MANY: And also with you.



SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 51:1-17

VISUAL REFLECTION

Preparing for More

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY: HOW TO GROW A HEALING TREE

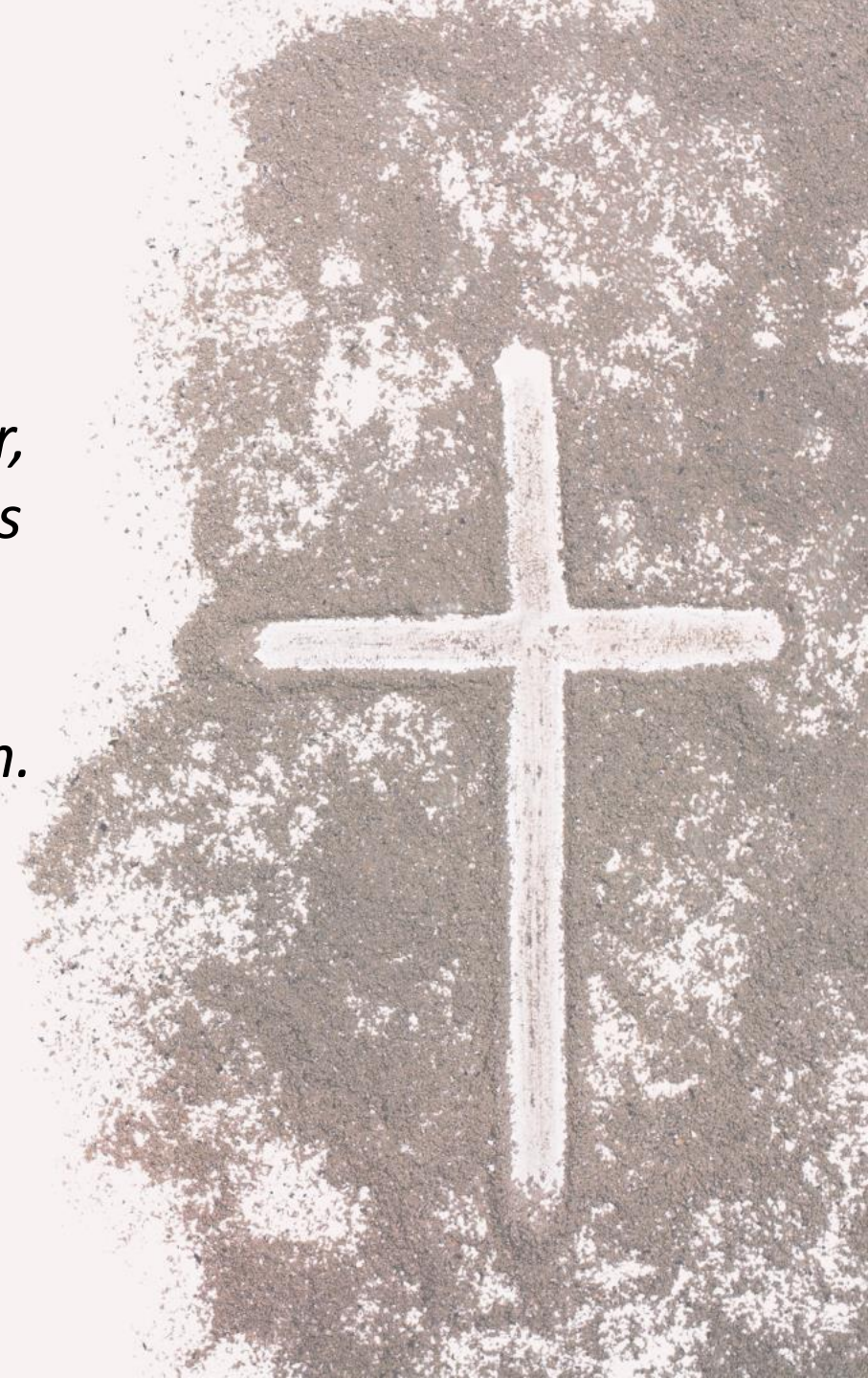


IMPOSITION OF ASHES

You are invited to come forward at this time to receive ashes. Either your forehead or, if you prefer, your hand will be marked with the sign of the cross as a tangible reminder of our sinfulness and mortality and of our utter dependence upon the grace of God and the power of Christ's resurrection.

ONE: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return.

MANY: Lord, have mercy.



SPECIAL MUSIC

Give Me a Clean Heart

Margaret Douroux



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

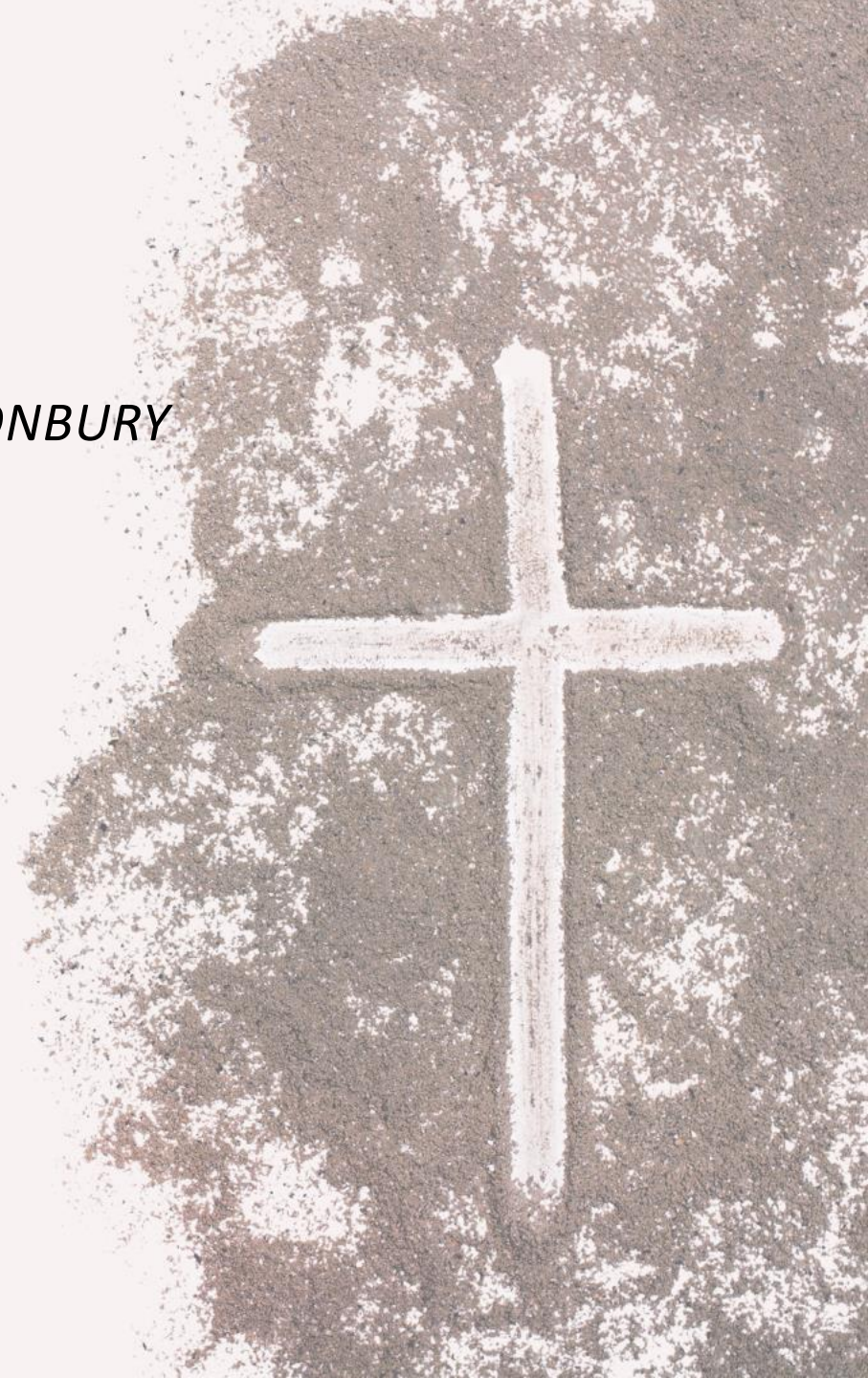
**Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day
our daily bread. And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**



CLOSING HYMN

Sing Out! We're Made of Common Dust CANONBURY
To the tune of "Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak"

**Sing out! We're made of common dust;
One day, to dust we shall return!
Yet, God, you've placed your mark on us
And so for you our spirits yearn.**



**This gift of ashes we receive
Reminds us we belong to you.
You call us to repent, believe,
And seek your Way in all we do.**



**The dust and dirt of children's play,
Of youthful times, of working years
Are part of life — and life's decay;
We wash the dust with sorrow's tears.**



**We sing, O God, of what you give:
This ash reminds us we are yours.
In life we're claimed, in death we live!
In Christ our life, your love endures.**



BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lenten Postlude

Koch



WORSHIP NOTES

This evening's **Ash Wednesday** service is adapted from a service that utilizes the "Wandering Heart" theme we will follow through Lent. It was written by Rev. Anna Strickland | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org and posted on *A Sanctified Art* at www.sanctifiedart.org.

The **Prayer of Confession for Ash Wednesday** is by Pamela C. Hawkins, in *The Awkward Season: Prayers for Lent* (Nashville, TN: Upper Room Books, 2009), 30. Posted on **Prayer and Creeds**, <https://prayersandcreeds.wordpress.com>

The **Visual Reflection** features Dale Ryan, the Associate Professor of Recovery Ministry and Director of the Institute for Recovery Ministry at Fuller Seminary. Before coming to Fuller, Ryan was a member of the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where his research focused on naturally occurring food toxins and on protein biochemistry. He gained ministry experience as pastor of care and fellowship at Whittier Area Baptist Fellowship in Whittier, California. Ryan also serves as the CEO of Christian Recovery International, an organization helping the Christian community become a safer and more accommodating place for people recovering from addiction, abuse, or trauma. Posted on The Work of The People at www.theworkofthepeople.com and used with permission.



WORSHIP NOTES

The **Closing Hymn** is written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Tune: Robert Schumann, 1839 ("Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak") (MIDI) Text: Copyright © 2018 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

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