



Ash  
Wednesday



## *Our Worship of God*

*Wednesday, February 14, 2018*

*6:00 pm*

*(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)*

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### *~ Ash Wednesday ~*

*Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. It is a service for repentance and somber reflection based on the text: "you are dust and to dust you shall return" (Gen. 3:19). The use of ashes began in the tenth century to remind worshippers of their mortality as they began their Lenten journey to the cross.*

**Welcome**

Brittany McDonald Null

**Invocation**

God of dust and ash, you fashioned us from the dust of the earth, and to dust we shall return. May the ashes placed upon our foreheads this day remind us of who we are and whose we are. Draw us back to you, O God, for you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Heal the hardness of our hearts, and our brokenness that we may be faithful disciples. Amen

## Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God



1 Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God; cre -  
2 ♯ Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence; ♯  
3 Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion; re -



ate in me a clean heart, O God; cre -  
cast me not a - way from your pres - ence; ♯  
store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion; re -



ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
cast me not a - way from your pres - ence ♯ and  
store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -



new a right spir - it with - in me.  
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.  
hold me with your free Spir - it.

## Learning to Lament Theme Interpretation

Carol McEntyre

## Scripture Reading

The Kasmanns

Psalms 22:1-4

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

Psalm 25:16-20

Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.

Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress.

Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.

Consider how many are my foes, and with what violent hatred they hate me.

O guard my life, and deliver me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.

Psalm 13:2-3

How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me, O Lord my God! Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death.

### **Prayer for Entering Lament (responsive)**

God with us,

we have gathered with a sense

of the sacredness of this space, and an

awareness of your presence.

We come with our wounds wide open,

with our defenses down,

wearing our personal needs like placards,

calling to you as did so many who approached Jesus,

saying

**“Heal me, help me, touch me!”**

We work hard at being happy,

at coping, at surviving, at holding on,

but we have come here hoping to let go of

false pretenses and to be honest before you about our pain.

Touch our lives, our God, and cast your sunlight

through our tears 'til rainbows rise,

and plant dreams where wounds leave scars

through our lament,

rekindle our hope,

revive our strength,

refresh our faith.

**Amen.**

## **What are you lamenting?**

*(Use this space to reflect on what aspect of life that you are grieving that you want to bring before God. It could be personal, communal, or global.)*

**Song of Lament**

**Weep With Me**

**Shelby Myers**

## **Lament for Our Sin (responsive)**

*For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. (Psalm 51:3)*

O God, when we pause to look back at our lives on this Ash Wednesday, we realize that we have been weighed in the balance and found wanting. You know our sin too well.

We long to act justly, but so often sin stains our deeds, just as dust and ashes smear and discolor that which was clean. We pour out these ashes, watching them cover the bright clean surface beneath, and we remember the ways that we have failed to live by your standards.

**We have been called to deny ourselves.  
Forgive us for putting our self-interest  
before the interest of your kingdom.**

Forgive us that Christ's Lordship in our hearts  
has been challenged by our ambition, our appetites,  
our desires, and our needs,  
forgive us for the times when self-interest  
hindered our care for others.

*Silence kept for confession*

**Lord, we have been called to carry a cross;  
forgive us for complaining when it has weighed heavily upon us;  
forgive us that, having received so much,  
we have sacrificed so little;  
forgive us for the limits we have set to Christian love.**

*Silence kept for confession*

As we begin the journey of these 40 days  
Wash us, O God, and we shall be clean  
Cleanse us, O Lord, and we shall be made whole.  
**Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance (based on Joel 2:13)**

The LORD, our God, is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. God hears the earnest cries of the repentant and forgives our sins.

### **Imposition of Ashes**

*(The sign of the cross in ashes will be given to all who desire as a reminder that life is short and should be lived to the fullest in Christ love. After you receive the ashes, you are invited to come to the table covered with ashes and draw a cross or another symbol in the ashes, to let the whiteness of the paper shine through the darkness of the ashes, as a sign that you are asking God to bring light and hope into the situations we are lamenting.)*

**Benediction (responsive)**

With a sigh and a muffled sob, I set down my ashes:  
this fragile life, this fragile ego, these vain illusions  
of all that I might do, might have, might be.

With a sigh and twinge of regret, I set down my ashes:  
dreams I have chased, wounds I have clung to,  
fears that have crowded out hope like weeds.

With a sigh and a longing cry, I ask for healing:  
humility to recognize your glory, purpose in the work  
alongside one another, gratitude of breath & body.

With a sigh and a contrite spirit, I ask for your healing  
to sustain this journey — for forty days, for a lifetime —  
surrounded by grace and animated by love.

**Let the ashes be ashes.**

**Let the dust be dust.**

**Through honest lament,  
let the healing begin. Amen.**

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# Worship Notes

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The opening prayer was Adapted from Ruth Duck, Touch Holiness, The Pilgrim Press.

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God, TEXT: Para John Carter, 1997; MUSIC: John Carter, 1997; *Text and Music* © 1997 Hope Publishing Company.







## 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

*First Baptist Church offers Awakening Contemporary Worship at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall, and Traditional Worship at 11:15 each Sunday in the Sanctuary.*

For Children During Worship:

1<sup>st</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> Graders are encouraged to participate in worship with their family.

Children (Birth-Kindergarten) can be dropped off in the nursery, located next to the sanctuary, prior to worship where they will be cared for by our professional staff.

10:15 Spiritual Formation Hour:

Birth-Age 3 childcare is provided by our professional staff in the nursery, located next to the sanctuary.

First Kids Sunday School (3 year olds through 5th grade) is on the third floor.

Youth Bible Study (grades 6-12) is on the third floor.

Adult Small Groups which dive into various topics (visitors and guests welcomed):

Discussion Class in the Parlor on the second floor.

Faith Forum in the second floor classroom, next to the elevator.

Community Small Group in the conference on the second floor.

Young Adult Small Group in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor library.

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### Church Staff

*Carol McEntyre*, Senior Pastor † *Ed Rollins*, Associate Pastor

*Michael McEntyre*, Associate Pastor of Youth, College and young Adults, and Missions

*Brittany McDonald Null*, Pastoral Resident

*Yvette Chambers*, Director of Children's Ministry

*Colleen Ostercamp*, Pianist and Organist † *Shelby Myers*, Awakening Praise Band Leader

*Jess Wolfe*, Child Development Center Director

*Janet Deneke*, Admin. Assistant † *Brenda Rice*, Project Coordinator

*Bethany James*, Nursery Director † *Jason Bell*, Custodian