

An Ecumenical Service for Ash Wednesday

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

February 17, 2021
6:30 p.m.

Please see the instructions printed on the last page of our order of worship to connect to this service online or to make a reservation to attend in-person.

Ash Wednesday +

“You are invited to the observance of a Holy Lent”

*Thank you for keeping a quiet prayerful presence as you prepare
for our worship together.*

Black Text: Live, in-person; Purple Text: Zoom

Rick Cross

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Song “Come Bring your Burdens to God” (*sing 3x English only*)

Wo - - - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho,
Come, bring your bur - dens to God,

wo - - - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho, wo - za nom -
come, bring your bur - dens to God, come, bring your

thwa - lo wa - kho, u Je - sua - ka so za thi hay.
bur - dens to God, for Je - sus will nev - er say no.

Jon Ouellette, Reader

Reader says: A Reading from Hebrew Scripture from Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "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.

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? 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; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

(after the reading)

Reader says **"Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people"**

People **"Thanks be to God."**

Gretchen Casey, Leader

Psalm 103:8-14

(Designate one person to respond on Zoom following the asterisk)*

Leader The Lord is full of compassion and mercy

Responder ***Slow to anger and of great kindness.**

He will not always accuse us ***Nor will he keep his anger for ever.**

He has not dealt with us according to our sins ***Nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth ***So is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**

As far as the East is from the West ***So far has he removed our sins from us.**

As a father cares for his children ***So does the Lord care for those who fear him.**

For he himself knows whereof we are made ***He remembers that we are but dust.**

Song to Greet the Gospel "Take, O Take me as I am" (sing 4 times)

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall

be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

Peggy Day, Deacon

Leader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Deacon "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Homily

Rick Cross

Carl Schreiber, Leader

Leader Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have - to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

(Silence begun and ended by a prayer bell; kneel if you are able)

Leader Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

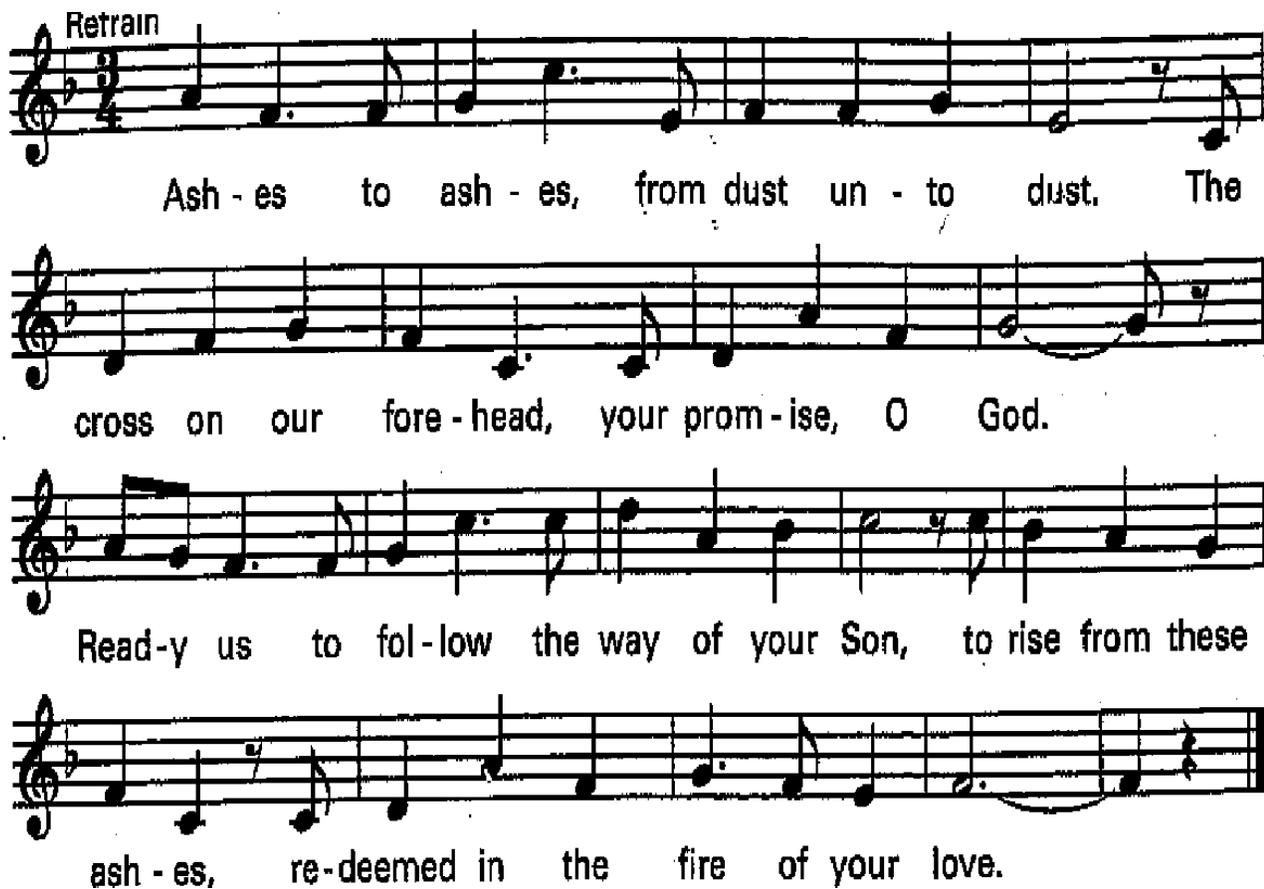
All Amen.

Words of Imposition:

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Song "Ashes to Ashes" (*sing several times*)

Retrain



Ash - es to ash - es, from dust un - to dust. The
cross on our fore - head, your prom - ise, O God.
Read - y us to fol - low the way of your Son, to rise from these
ash - es, re - deemed in the fire of your love.

Linette George, Leader

Psalm 51:1-17

(Stephen Mitchell translation)

(Designate one person to respond following the asterisk*)

Leader Forgive me, Lord, in your mercy; in your great love blot out my sin.

Responder * **Lighten the weight of my offense; free my mind from its burden.**

I am deeply conscious of my guilt; my sin is almost unbearable. ***My heart is breaking with remorse and the shame of what I have done.**

I know that you love the truth; teach me to live in wholeness. ***Cleanse my spirit; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.**

Take away my guilt; wipe out every last trace of my sin. ***Return me to myself and make me as pure as a newborn child.**

Fill me with peace and gladness; let the bones that you crushed rejoice.

***Create a pure heart within me; let my soul wake up in your light.**

Open me to your presence; flood me with your holy spirit. ***Then I will stand and sing out the power of your forgiveness.**

I will teach your love to the ignorant; the lost will find their way home.

***Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.**

Jerrod Oltman, Leader

Litany of Penitence

(Leader and People in church together, all who wish and are able kneeling)

Most holy and merciful God:

We confess to you and to one another,

And to the whole communion of saints

In heaven and on earth,

That we have sinned by our own fault

In thought, word, and deed;

By what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

Leader We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

***People* Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Leader We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

***People* Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Leader We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness; the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

***People* We confess to you, Lord.**

Leader Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

***People* We confess to you, Lord.**

Leader Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

***People* We confess to you, Lord.**

Leader Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

***People* We confess to you, Lord.**

Leader Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

People **We confess to you, Lord.**

Leader Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done; for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

People **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Leader For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

People **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Leader For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

People **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Leader Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

People **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Leader Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

People **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Leader By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

People **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Song "When We Are Living" (sing 3x)

**When we are living it is in Christ Jesus,
And when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
We belong to God, we belong to God.**

Lev Sherman, Leader

Leader Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore, we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

Matthew Brown

The Peace

Interlude music

The Holy Eucharist

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer

(People in church stand if they are able)

Celebrant 1 *Matthew Brown*

Celebrant 2 *Carl Schreiber*

Celebrant 3 *Jon Ouellette*

Celebrant 1 The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant 1 Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant 1 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant 1 It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus *(Said)* **“Holy, Holy, Holy”**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant 2 Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and when we had fallen into sin and became subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***Celebrants and People* Christ has died.
 Christ has risen.
 Christ will come again.**

Celebrant 3 We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

***Celebrants and People* AMEN**

Celebrant 3 As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

The Lord's Prayer
(traditional)

Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant 1 breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

We who are many are one body.

People For we all share in one bread.

Celebrant 1 The gifts of God for the people of God.

(Everyone is invited to receive the gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic wine. You may use the Communion packets provided or your own bread and wine.)

Communion Song "Come and Find Rest in Christ"

Come and find rest in Christ, healer of broken, wounded lives.

He who was pierced and died longs to relieve our pain.

Where can we run and hide, shamed and rejected if we be?

Where Jesus' spirit breathes all are made whole through love.

After Communion

Celebrant 1 Let us pray -

Clergy and People in Church

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, bearing the Light of Christ wherever there is darkness, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rick Cross *The Blessing*

Closing song: “We will lay our burden down”

- 1. We will lay our burden down, we will lay our burden down,
We will lay our burden down, in the hands of the Lord today.**
- 2. We will light the flame of love (3x)
in the hands of the Lord today.**
- 3. We will show both hurt and hope, (3x)
in the hands of the Lord today.**
- 4. We will walk the path of peace, (3x)
in the hands of the Lord today.**

Deacon *Let us bless the Lord.*

People *Thanks be to God.*

Greeting and Announcements

Music: Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from OneLicense.net
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*"Come bring your burdens to God" words & melody: S. African traditional Mooiplaas congregation. ©
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"Take, O take me as I am": John L. Bell © 1994 WGRG The Iona Community, Scotland GIA Pub., Inc.

"Ashes to Ashes" by Don Schutte published by OCP

*"When we are living": Roberto Escamilla Mexican Source Text: © 1983, United Methodist Publishing
House/Abingdon Press*

*"Come and Find Rest in Christ words: Swee Hong Lim, melody: Bao Gui', Swee Hong Li. Arrangement:
John L. Bell © 2012 WGRG The Iona Community, Scotland GIA Pub., Inc.*

"We will lay our burden down" John Bell © 1989 WGRG The Iona Community, Scotland GIA Pub., Inc.

East of the Penobscot Ministerium Community Lenten Mid-week Worship Services, 2021

All services begin at 6:30pm on Wednesdays.

All in-person services will be held at the 1st United Methodist Church of Brewer.

Space is limited due to COVID-19 restrictions.

In-person worshippers should call 207-825-3404 at the East Orrington Congregational Church to reserve your space. Please call at least one day prior to the service.

Everyone may choose to worship and participate in each service via Zoom or Facebook.

The **Zoom Meeting Link** each week is: Meeting ID: 898 6522 8839; Passcode: 278429

Phone only 1 929 205 6099 (New York)

A fellowship time will be held via the same Zoom link, following the service.

The **Facebook Link** each week is: www.facebook.com/1UMCBrewer

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| February 17 | Led on Zoom, by St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, Brewer
Preacher: Rick Cross |
| February 24 | Led on Zoom by the Orrington United Methodist Church
Preacher: Ron Chaffee |
| March 3 | Led by the 1 st Congregational Church of Brewer
Preacher: Jerrod Oltmann |
| March 10 | Led on Zoom by Holden and Dedham United Church(s) of Christ
Preacher: Linette George |
| March 17 | Led by the Lighthouse Church, Orrington
Preacher: Jon Ouellette |
| March 24 | Led on Zoom
by the North Brewer / Eddington United Methodist Church
Preacher: Gretchen Casey |

The **East of the Penobscot Ministerium** includes the churches of the North Brewer-Eddington United Methodist Church, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, the Orrington United Methodist Church, The Lighthouse Church (in Orrington), the 1st United Methodist Church of Brewer, the 1st Congregational Church of Brewer, the Holden and Dedham United Congregational churches, and the East Orrington Congregational Church.

We welcome all people of all faiths to join us!