

Ash Wednesday - 6:00 pm

### **Land Acknowledgement**

We gather here mindful of the many who, for millennia, have called this valley home or depended on its trails for safe passage. We know this community as Fernie; it is also the unceded territory of the Ktunaxa people. May we be good and gracious guests of this corner of Creation.

### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

Fire and light come together in the flames that dance atop this candle – refining fire, fire that burns, light that pierces, light that soothes. Thanks be for fire and light.

*Peter Chynoweth, Yellowknife, NT*

*From Eggs & Ashes*

### **From dust we came**

From dust we came,  
to dust we will return

**WE BELONG TO GOD**

We gather in penitence,  
we gather in confidence

**WE BELONG TO GOD**

At the beginning of Lent,  
at every moment of our lives

**WE BELONG TO GOD**

*Ruth Burgess*

### **Marked by a cross**

Marked by a cross,  
cherished and forgiven

**WE ARE TRAVELLING HOME**

Called to be holy,  
called to be happy

**WE ARE TRAVELLING HOME**

Across deserts,  
over mountains

**WE ARE TRAVELLING HOME**

God in our hearts,  
God in our lives

**WE ARE TRAVELLING HOME**

*Ruth Burgess*

## **Reading for Ash Wednesday**

### **Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21**

#### **Concerning Almsgiving**

'Beware of practising 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.

#### **Concerning Prayer**

'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.

#### **Concerning Fasting**

'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.

#### **Concerning Treasures**

'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.

Reflection - The Reverend Andrea L. Brennan - Why Penitence? Why Lent?

*From The Book of Alternative Services*

Dear friends in Christ,  
Every year at the time of the Christian Passover  
We celebrate our redemption  
through the death and resurrection  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration  
and to renew our life in the paschal mystery.  
We begin this holy season  
by remembering our need for repentance,  
and for the mercy and forgiveness  
proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes,  
an ancient sign,  
speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of human life,  
and marking the penitence of the community as a whole.

I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent  
by self-examination, penitence, prayer,  
fasting and almsgiving,  
and by reading and meditating on the word of God.

*From Eggs & Ashes*

### **Ashes and penance**

Ashes

– powdery-grey  
from keeping on trying  
to get a spark from two stones

– streaky black  
from relighting a candle  
that keeps going out

– soft white  
from a fire that burned down to its heart  
and kept everyone warm  
these are ashes worth wearing

Penance

for self-absorption

– many hours in the company of three-year-olds

for carelessness

– a year's close study of an elder tree

for injustice

– giving thanks for the rain and sun  
that fall on you anyway

for pride

– learning to see the funny side  
of your coals of fire.

*Kathy Galloway*

*From Celebrate God's Presence*

### **Second Prayer of Confession**

There are some things I can only share with you,  
O God, decisions I have made that I regret,  
bringing brokenness into my living.  
I offer brokenness to you, risen Christ, as confession.  
I open myself to you, cleansing Spirit,  
asking for renewal and for wisdom.  
Hear the prayers of my deepest self in my silent prayer.

(a time of silent prayer)

*From The Book of Alternative Services*

Almighty God,  
From the dust of the earth you have created us.  
May these ashes be for us a sign  
Of our mortality and penitence,  
And are milder than only by your gracious gift  
Are we given eternal life;  
Through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

### **Extinguishing our Candles**

As we enter the 40 days of Lent,  
may we hold tight to the promise of the resurrection,  
knowing that one day, we know not yet what day,  
we will be together again, not necessarily as we wish,  
but as we are able.   **Amen**

*From Celebrate God's Presence*

### **Sending Forth**

Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether,  
the past is finished and gone,  
everything becomes fresh and new.

Glory to God, whose power working in us  
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine!  
Glory to God from generation to generation  
in the world, in the church, and in our lives!

For anyone who wishes to do so, Reverend Andrea will be imposing/anointing with ashes.

Please stay in your vehicle, put the window(s) down and turn off the engine. Please ensure you are wearing a mask. Andrea+ will approach you, wearing a mask, and will impose ashes while saying "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return". When she has moved back to the sidewalk, please drive away so the next person can receive their ashes. In between vehicles, Andrea+ will sanitize her hands.

Ash Wednesday Liturgy broadcasts:

From Christ Church begins Zoom Worship at 10:00 am.

From Christ Church imposition of ashes - 11:15 - 11:45 am.

From Knox United begins Zoom Worship at 6:00 pm.

From Knox United imposition of ashes - 7:15 - 7:45 pm.

Resources Used:

Worship today was assembled with resources from Celebrate God's Presence, The Book of Alternative Services, Eggs & Ashes: Practical and liturgical resources for Lent and Holy Week, the New Revised Standard Version of the bible.