

ASH WEDNESDAY – March 2 - 2022

This service outline offers breathing exercises to help continually centre ourselves. It uses breath as a way of reflecting and being forgiven . This act becomes a rhythmic prayer. There are no spoken prayers as such, just the act of using the pattern of breathing as a way of knowing God's forgiveness, presence and renewal. You will need: a circle of candles in the centre of worship (battery powered), a sheet of paper and a pen for everyone, ashes for the worship leader.

Gathering Hymn – Be Thou My Vision – ELW - 793

**All: In the silence of this evening,
 in the quiet of the day,
 in the peace of this place
 we come
 with dust and ashes
 from which we came
 and will return
 and pause for breath.**

Leader: Please take a deep breath and exhale slowly

**All: In the silence of this evening,
 in the quiet of the day,
 in the peace of this place
 we come
 with dust and ashes
 from which we came
 and will return
 and pause for breath.**

Leader: Please take a deep breath and exhale slowly .

**All: In the silence of this evening,
 in the quiet of the day,
 in the peace of this place
 we come
 with dust and ashes
 from which we came
 and will return
 and pause for breath.**

Leader: Please take a deep breath and exhale slowly.

Stewart will sing “I Want Jesus to Walk With Me – vs. 1

Reading – Joel 2:1-2

Blow the trumpet in Zion ;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
 Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near
 a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
 Like blackness spread upon the mountains
 a great and powerful army comes;
 their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Reflection

**All: In the silence of this evening,
 in the quiet of the day,
 in the peace of this place
 we come
 with dust and ashes
 in penitence and confession
 seeking forgiveness and renewal
 and we pause.**

Leader: Please take a deep breath and exhale slowly.

**All: In the silence of this evening,
 in the quiet of the day,
 in the peace of this place
 we come
 with dust and ashes
 in penitence and confession
 seeking forgiveness and renewal
 and we pause.**

Leader: Please take a deep breath and exhale slowly.

**All: In the silence of this evening,
 in the quiet of the day,
 in the peace of this place welcome
 with dust and ashes
 in penitence and confession
 seeking forgiveness and renewal
 and we pause.**

Stewart - Verse 2

Reading Joel 2:12-13

Yet even now, says the Lord,
 return to me with all your heart,
 with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
 rend your hearts and not your clothing.
 Return to the Lord, your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
 slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
 and relents from punishing.

Reflection

**All: In the silence of this evening,
 in the quiet of the day,
 in the peace of this place
 we come
 with dust and ashes
 finding our way here
 in the presence of forgiveness
 and we pause.**

Leader: Please take a deep breath and exhale slowly.

**All: In the silence of this evening,
 in the quiet of the day,
 in the peace of this place
 we come
 with dust and ashes
 finding our way here
 in the presence of forgiveness
 and we pause.**

Leader: Please take a deep breath and exhale slowly.

**All: In the silence of this evening,
 in the quiet of the day,
 in the peace of this place
 we come
 with dust and ashes
 finding our way here
 in the presence of forgiveness
 and we pause.**

Leader: Please take a deep breath and exhale slowly.

Stewart – verse 3

Reading - Joel 2:17

Between the vestibule and the altar
 let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.
 Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,
 and do not make your heritage a mockery,
 a byword among the nations.
 Why should it be said among the peoples,
 'Where is their God ?'"

Response - Russell

Reflection

**All: In the silence of this evening,
 in the quiet of the day,
 in the peace of this place
 we come
 with dust and ashes
 in thanksgiving and praise
 in hope and in peace
 and we pause.**

Leader: Please take a deep breath and exhale slowly.

**All: In the silence of this evening,
 in the quiet of the day,
 in the peace of this place we come
 with dust and ashes
 in thanksgiving and praise in hope and in peace
 and we pause.**

Leader: Please take a deep breath and exhale slowly.

**All: In the silence of this evening,
 in the quiet of the day,
 in the peace of this place
 we come
 with dust and ashes
 in thanksgiving and praise
 in hope and in peace
 and we pause.**

Leader: Please take a deep breath and exhale slowly.

Action – Stewart will explain

Poem

May the dust of the Saviour's stories
mark us for this journey.

May the dust of the roads he travelled
guide us on this Lenten path.

May even the dust of the words of love
be enough to hold us through this darkness.

And in such dust,
where footsteps are left,
may we place our sins
and our shadows,
our hurts
and our alleluias
folded away
until the dawn of life .

May the dust from the cross call us
and leave footprints on the way.

Imposition of Ashes – Stewart will invite

Invite people to come forward to receive ashes. In doing so, these words can be said to each person.

You are but dust. And to dust you shall return.

Now in repentance walk the way of the cross
for God in love promises to lift you into new life.

Stewart – verse 4

Breathing Prayer - *As people return to their seats, invite them to breath out, letting go of all that hurts and corrupts, and then breath in the new life of the spirit and promise of God. - Stewart*

Leave Taking - Russell

In the silence of this evening,
in the quiet of the day,
in the peace of this place
we now go

with dust and ashes:
forgiven and renewed;
forgiven and loved again ;
forgiven and companions
on the way.

Blessing

Go in peace. Travel in peace.
Share God's peace.

Closing Hymn – Healer Of Our Every Ill – ELW - 612