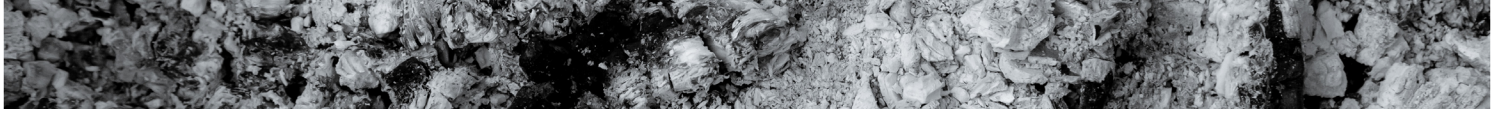


ASH WEDNESDAY



FEBRUARY 17, 2021
AT-HOME LITURGY
HIGH POINT CHURCH

REFLECTION SONG: *“Dust We Are And Shall Return”* by The Brilliance



As you listen to this song, let the simplicity of the words quiet your heart and mind. Take these few minutes, as we enter into this season of Lent, to posture yourself in such a way that you may discern what God’s desire is for us as we spend some time in confession and repentance.

*From dust we’ve come
And dust we are
And shall return*

*Be still my soul
And let it go
Just let it go*

*Glory to God
Glory to God
In the highest
Glory to God
Glory to God
In the highest*

*Naked we came
And shall return
Into the grave*

*Be still my soul
And let it go
Just let it go*

*Glory to God
Glory to God
In the highest
Glory to God
Glory to God
In the highest*

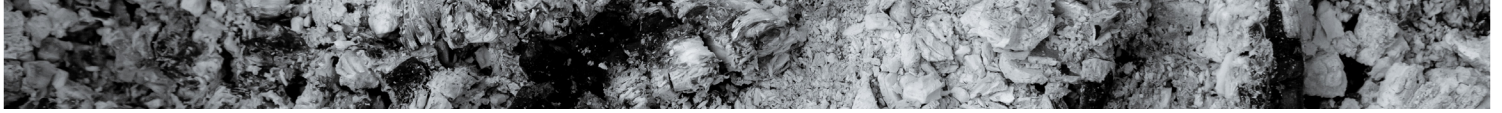
*Be still my soul
Lord, make me whole
Lord, make me whole*

*Be still my soul
Lord, make me whole
Lord, make me whole
Lord, make me whole*

*Be still my soul
Lord, make me whole
Lord, make me whole*

*Glory to God
Glory to God
Glory to God
Glory to God*

SCRIPTURE READINGS



2 Samuel 13:19

Tamar put ashes on her head and tore her long-sleeved garment which was on her; and she put her hand on her head and went away, crying aloud as she went.

Esther 4:1, 3

When Mordecai learned all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city and wailed loudly and bitterly... In each and every province where the command and decree of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing; and many lay on sackcloth and ashes.

Job 2:8

And he took a potsherd to scrape himself while he was sitting among the ashes.

Job 42:6

Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes.

Jeremiah 6:26

O daughter of my people, put on sackcloth and roll in ashes; mourn as for an only son, a lamentation most bitter. For suddenly the destroyer will come upon us.

Daniel 9:3

So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.

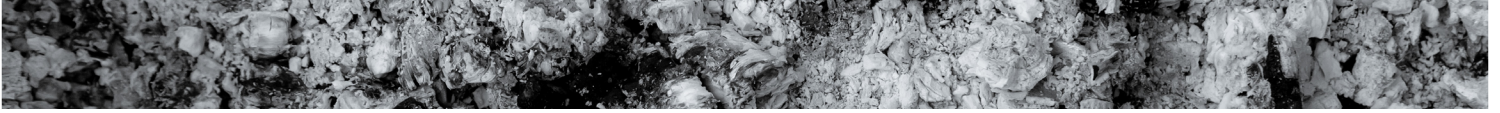
Jonah 3:6

When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered himself with sackcloth and sat on the ashes.

Matthew 11:21

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

READING: *Dust and Ashes*



There's a reason why people throughout Scripture used to tear their clothes and cover themselves in ashes when they entered a time of grief and mourning, but the meaning of this metaphor is lost on so many of us today. In Genesis 18:27, when Abram was pleading with God to spare Sodom from annihilation after the people within it had turned from God and become entirely wicked, Abram recognized his lowly position as he made his request: **“Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord, although I am but dust and ashes.”** Ashes placed on the body have historically served as a symbol of our futility, our wickedness, and our self-destruction that would have otherwise kept us separated from God if it weren't for Christ's work on the cross. Taking time to lament over the sins we've committed and the destruction those sins have caused is a necessary part of the Christian life. Not only that, but Jesus proclaimed blessing over those who see the brokenness of their own spirits and come before God to grieve and receive healing (Matthew 5:3 – 4).

PRAYER: *Personal Confession + Repentance*



Sin can manifest itself in countless different ways, and these two passages from Colossians and Ephesians cover many of the broad categories of sin in our lives. Take **5 – 10 minutes** to reflect on these passages and ask God to reveal the personal sins that He wants you to confess. Consider the following questions as you enter into a time of prayer.

Questions for reflection:

1. What sin has continued to grip you?
2. What needs healing that you haven't yet fully entrusted to God?
3. What responsibility do you have in the wedge between yourself and another person?

SCRIPTURE READINGS



Colossians 3:5 – 10

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Ephesians 4:25 – 29

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

PRAYER:

Corporate Confession + Repentance

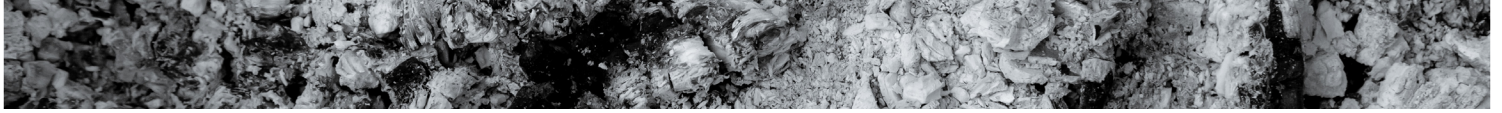


One of our responsibilities as followers of Jesus is to contribute to the flourishing of our earthly community. Our prosperity and destruction are directly tied to the prosperity and destruction of the land in which we live. In light of this, take **5 – 10 minutes** to ask God to reveal the corporate sins that He wants you to confess on behalf of the larger group. Consider the following questions as you enter into a time of prayer.

Questions for reflection:

1. What sins do I need to claim and confess on behalf of our city or nation?
2. What sins do I need to claim and confess on behalf of our church?
3. What sins do I need to claim and confess on behalf of the smaller circle of Christian community which I'm a part of?
4. In what ways are you a participant in these corporate sins?

REFLECTION SONG: ["Beautiful Things"](#) by Gungor



READING: Beauty from Ashes

We have brought upon ourselves our lives culminating to nothing but ashes, and without Jesus, our lives remain nothing but ashes. But the hope that we have been graced with in the midst of lamentation can be found in Jesus alone and the work that he has done on the cross. Jesus saw fit to even save us, ashes and all. He has given beauty for ashes, and he has taken what is dead and has made it alive. Jesus has seen fit to look at our ashes and give us his righteousness in return. Because of the gospel, we can experience genuine remorse and be free of crippling shame. We can experience deep conviction and walk out from underneath the weight of guilt.

PRAY: Isaiah 61:3

God, we recognize that we came from dust, we are but dust now, and we shall return to dust again. Help us to understand these things accurately so that you receive the glory that You deserve. We praise you for "bestowing on us a crown of beauty instead of ashes, oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair."