

Blessing the Dust – A Blessing for Ash Wednesday

All those days
you felt like dust,
like dirt,
as if all you had to do
was turn your face
toward the wind
and be scattered
to the four corners
or swept away
by the smallest breath
as insubstantial –

did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?

This is the day
we freely say
we are scorched.
This is the hour
we are marked
by what has made it
through the burning.
This is the moment
we ask for the blessing
that lives within
the ancient ashes,
that makes its home
inside the soil of
this sacred earth.

So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.
Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less
than we are

but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made
and the stars that blaze
in our bones
and the galaxies that
spiral
inside the smudge
we bear.

Jan Richardson, Circle of
Grace
© Jan Richardson.
janrichardson.com

A Gathering for Worship in the
style of the Taizé Community



Ash Wednesday
February 17, 2021
7pm

*The Rev. Karen Bowles, The Rev. Jason Meyers,
Dr. Patricia Wright and Charles Davidson
All music is copyrighted, by Jacques Berthier/Taizé Community.
Printed here by license*

We gather in reflective silence

(all songs printed in bold text - join in, or listen, as you prefer)

*We share in the light.
Candles are lit.*

Song: **Dona nobis pacem, Domine.**
(Grant us peace, O Lord)

Song: **O Lord Hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer
When I call answer me,
O Lord hear my prayer, O lord hear my prayer
Come and listen to me.**

Prayer

Song: **Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten,
those who seek God shall never go wanting,
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten,
God alone fills us.**

Reading: Psalm: 51:1-2,6-17

Song: **Ubi caritas, et amor,
ubi caritas, Deus ibi est**
(where there is love, there also is God)

Reading: Isaiah: 58: 1-12

Prayer of Confession
**God of life, we confess the ways we turn away from the
fullness of life that you offer.
God of love, we confess the hatred we hold in our hearts.**

**God of compassion, we confess our indifference.
God of justice, we confess that our lives are linked to
oppressive systems.
God of peace, we confess the violent movements of our
hearts, the violent realities of our world.
God we confess our sins, our fragmentation to you.**

Silence

Song: **Stay with me, remain here with me,
Watch and pray.
Watch and pray.**

Song: **Within our darkest night,
you kindle the fire that never dies away,
never dies away.
Within our darkest night,
you kindle the fire that never dies away,
never dies away.**

Reading: Matthew 6: 1, 19-21

Song: **Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.**

Blessing the Dust

Jan Richardson

Prayer, Imposition of Ashes

*As we begin the time of Lent, you are invited when indicated, to make
the sign of the cross on your forehead or hand.*

Song: With These Ashes

Gerard Chiusano