



Pilgrim Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Ash Wednesday—February 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday - February 14, 2024 Daytime Prayers

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The Lord God formed humans from the dust of the ground.

**ALL: God breathed into our nostrils the breath of life,
and we became living beings.**

ONE: Made from the dust, but filled with the Spirit,
we gather for worship and community.

**ALL: And if we do not worship,
the dust itself will rise up in praise.**

ONE: In this moment we are living and conscious,
proclaiming God's goodness to all creation.

**ALL: And when we return to dust and bones,
our stories will testify to love and justice.**

ONE: So, breathe in the Holy Spirit, knowing you are alive for a moment in time.

**ALL: We breathe and know these things to be true.
Let us worship the Life-Giver together. Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

**Giver of life and comfort in death,
you are the source of every mineral and every molecule forming our bodies.
You are the source of every spark and sugar energizing our personalities.
And you are the source of the divine breath that brought us to life in the
first place.**

**Today, we gather to remember our humanity,
our brevity, our limited human potential.
Though our dreams and egos are grand,
though your unique love for each of us is immense,
our lives are also a speck on the beach,
a chuckle in time, a comma in your novel.**

We gather on Ash Wednesday to remember:

We are dust, and to dust, we shall return.

**May the truth of our humanity and the power of your infinite love bring us
closer to a heavenly perspective. Amen.**

GATHERING REFLECTIONS

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 58:1-12

Ps. 51:1-4, 10-17

Rev. Reebee Girash

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE: Ash Wednesday provides us with the gift of time and space for repentance.

Let us prepare our hearts for the season of Lent by confessing our sins.

ALL: Righteous God, we join with worshipers all over the globe, uniting in our collective agreement that we desire to be more like you—more loving, more compassionate, more generous, more just, more patient, more faithful.

And as we focus our gaze upon your perfection, we cannot help but witness the ways in which we fail to live according to that standard, both individually and collectively. We have failed on a global scale, perpetuating systems that damage whole groups of people, whole species of creation, and whole generations of children.

ONE: We have failed on an individual scale in ways only we know in our minds and hearts.

ALL: So, we confess these sins with full conviction that you bear our sins with compassion and completion. And when we confess our sins, we find liberation from the chains binding us. We pray these things in the name of the one who delivers us from sin. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The congregation is invited to receive the imposition of ashes, a reminder of our mortality and the eternal nature of God. If you are at home, you may use a bit of soil for this purpose. "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return, but the steadfast love of God endures forever."

A LITANY OF FORGIVENESS AND COMMITMENT

**ALL: We acknowledge and confess our sins of thought,
word and deed, and we humbly seek God's forgiveness.**

ONE: God hears the confession of our heart and lips.

Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sins,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life.

ALL: We believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

**From this moment forward we commit to walking in the ways of God's
love, peace and justice.**

ONE: God's peace be with you.

BENEDICTION

SOURCE NOTES

Today's Liturgy is from Illustrated Ministry's 2023 Lent Liturgy, *This is My Body*, used here with license permission through purchase from Illustrated Ministry.

Please join us for all our upcoming Lent and Easter Worship services:

Sunday Morning Worship — 10:30 am

Palm Sunday Service — March 24, 2024

Maundy Thursday Service — March 28, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday — March 31, 2024

