

February 22, 2023

Ash Wednesday

6:30 pm

PRELUDE

Andante in d minor

William Walond

INVITATION to WORSHIP

Blessing the Dust

Jan Richardson

*OPENING HYMN

O God, How We Have Wandered

#202

**O God, how we have wandered and hidden from Your face;
In foolishness have squandered Your legacy of grace,
But how, in exile dwelling, we turn with fear and shame,
As distant but compelling, You call us each by name.**

**And now at length discerning the evil that we do,
By faith we are returning with hope and trust in You.
In haste You come to meet us, and home rejoicing bring
In gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.**

**O God of all the living, both banished and restored,
Compassionate, forgiving, our peace and hope assured.
Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out Your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.**

*OPENING PRAYER

O God, make me human-size, because some days I want to put on a cape to save the world; and the very next day sit on the couch with Ben and Jerry's ice cream, trying to see how much of Netflix I can finish. O God, make me human-size, because some days I think I have it all figured out, if people would just listen; and the next day feel like I am stumbling and struggling through life. O God, make me human-size, because on Ash Wednesday I am not sure what I am supposed to feel. I know the truth of Genesis 1, that You craft and create me out of soil and star dust, calling me, "beloved". And I know there are gospels of the world that led me astray and promise me life for \$19.95. So, here I am, God. This messy mixture of good intentions, prayers, worries, thoughts I am pretty sure I am not supposed to say in church, and concerns for others, myself, and the world. I open my heart just as I am, I pray that this prayer posture might be a way through these forty days of Lent.

Silence

*SUNG RESPONSE

Just as I Am

#207

**Just as I am, without one plea, but that Your blood was shed for me,
And that You called inviting me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, You will receive, will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Your promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, Your love unknown has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Yours, and Yours alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

SERMON

Who am I?

ANTHEM

Who at My Door is Standing

K. Lee Scott

IMPOSITION of ASHES

Now, O Lord, calm me into a quietness that heals and listens, and molds my longings and passions, my wounds and wonderings into a more holy and human shape. Ted Loder

PASTORAL PRAYER and LORD’S PRAYER (*SUNG*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days

#211

**Lord Jesus, who through forty days for us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.**

**As you with Satan did contend, and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.**

**And through these days of penitence, and through this Passiontide,
Yes, evermore, in life and death, O Christ, with us abide.**

**Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,
An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Christ Lag in Todesbanden

J.S. Bach