

# The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475  
Ash Wednesday • February 22, 2023 • 10:30 AM

GATHERING & REFLECTING (10:20 AM)

## Blessing the Dust

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

INVOCATION PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (ALL)

**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.**

HYMN No. 589

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

LORD I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

CONFESSION (JOEL 2, PSALM 51)

One: Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart,  
Many: **With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;**

One: Rend your hearts and not your clothing.

**Many: Return to the LORD, your God, for God is gracious and merciful,**

One: Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

**Many: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.**

One: Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,

**Many: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;**

One: Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**Many: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.**

One: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;

**Many: A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

#### IMPOSITION OF ASHES

HYMN No. 581

“Near to the Heart of God”

MCAFEE

#### BENEDICTION