

Ash Wednesday Worship Service, Home Version 2021

What you need:

- Bible
- Candle
- bowl of water
- Paper & writing utensil
- “ashes”

Ashes may be made from burning dead leaves of plants or paper. Mix with a little cooking oil to make a paste. Washable markers or makeup may also be used.



Set up: Place the candle and water on a table. Everyone gather in a circle around the table as one person lights a candle.

One: *We gather surrounded by the light of Christ and the waters of baptism: we have nothing to fear from the truth which sets us free. Let us turn with confidence to the God of grace.*

Hymn “Dust and Ashes Touch Our Face,” Brian Wren, 1989 ([youtube link](#))

Scripture Reading: Psalm 51 (multiple readers are suggested)

Activity: Take a few moments and share or write on a piece of paper 1-2 things that you may have done that was hurtful to yourself or someone else. When done, the paper may be burned as part of the ashes or “washed” in the bowl of water.

Prayer of Forgiveness

One: *Accept our apologies, O God. Help us to right our wrongs and be more loving and compassionate with all of your children.*

All: *Amen.*

The Mark of Ashes

Gather in a circle with one person holding the “ashes”. You may take turns applying the ashes on each other around the circle or have one person walk to each person and apply them. While applying the ashes these words may be spoken:

Remember that you are part of God’s holy earth: one with God in brokenness and blessing.

The recipient may respond, “Amen.”

Hymn “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing,” Robert Robinson, 1758 ([youtube link](#))

Blessing

One: May the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the sustaining power of the Holy Spirit continue to bless you Lenten journey.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

This Ash Wednesday service has been modified from “Celebrate God’s Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada.” 2000, Etobicoke, Ontario. United Church Publishing House.

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