

# Ash Wednesday Service 2023

## Call to Worship

Leader: Gracious God, in your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life,

**People: creating us to serve you and neighbors.**

Leader: Call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness, and strengthen us to face our mortality,

**People: that we may reach with confidence for your mercy; in Jesus Christ our Lord,**

**All: who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

## Opening Hymn

*“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”*

*Blue 383*

## Scripture

## Invitation to Receive Ashes

## Silent Prayer

## Sermon

## Prayer for Restoration

**Gracious God, in this season of repentance, restore to us the joy of our salvation, and strengthen us to forgive ourselves and one another our sins and shortcomings, in Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.**

## Invitation to Remove Ashes

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Father, we thank you that you are a God whose love is high enough, wide enough, and deep enough to overcome our selfishness and sin, a love that is demonstrated in the ultimate sacrifice of your Son Jesus, that we might come home again. We thank you that you come running down the road to meet us, renewing us in your love, and celebrating the humble return of your wayward children.**

**Because of Jesus our sin is removed as far as the east is from the west. Because of Jesus the ashes and all they represent—our sin, our rebellion, and death itself—are washed away. Lord, meet us here today, embrace us, and show us your presence that we might know that we are forgiven.**

## Charge

## Closing Hymn

*“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”*

*Blue 372*

## Benediction

## Postlude