



Image: Ash Wednesday Cross © Jan Richardson

## **Contemplative Liturgy**

**ASH WEDNESDAY February 17, 6pm.**

**Welcome sung 4 times**

**Candle 3X Bell**

**Opening CHANT By the waters of Babylon**

**Invitation to a Holy Lent: Desert Prayer.**

**—Jan Richardson In Wisdom's Path: Discovering the Sacred in every Season**

I am not asking you  
to take this wilderness from me,  
to remove this place of starkness  
where I come to know  
the wildness within me,  
where I learn to call the names  
of the ravenous beasts  
that pace inside me,  
to finger the brambles  
that snake through my veins,  
to taste the thirst  
that tugs at my tongue.  
But send me  
tough angels,  
sweet wine,  
strong bread:  
just enough.

## 1st Reading

### Is. 58:6, 10-12

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
**10** if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

**11** The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.

**12** Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

## Silence

## 2nd Reading

**Matt. 6:5** “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup> But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

## CHANT Agios O Theos

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

**Blessing the Dust**  
**For Ash Wednesday—Jan Richardson**  
**from Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons**

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.

**People impose their own ashes saying aloud:**

*Remember we are dust, and to dust we shall return.*

*Silence 10 minutes.*

*Confession of Sin. UNMUTED.*

God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.

We have denied Your good in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We are challenged by all the strife that surrounds us.  
We repent of the ungodly that controls us,  
the wrongful acts that we have done,  
and the foolish things done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us, that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.

CHANT O Christe Domine Jesu TAIZE intro

EUCCHARIST

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

### Chant (*celebrant*)

Je - sus said, "What are you look - ing for? The king - dom of God is with - in you and out - side you.  
This is my ver - y ho - dy, this is my blood."

Lynn Bauman

### Chant (*all*)

I am here, I am with you, we are one, I am here, I am with you, we are one.

Lynn Bauman

### The blessing over the bread (*celebrant*)

On the night before you died, beloved friend and master,  
You took bread, and when you had given thanks,  
you broke it, and gave it to your friends saying,  
"Take; eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Whenever you do this, remember me."

### The blessing over the cup (*celebrant*)

After supper, you took the cup of wine,  
and when you had given thanks,  
you gave it to us saying, "Drink this, all of you,  
for this is the blood of the new covenant,  
shed for you and for all, so that all may be one.  
Whenever you do this, remember me."

*NOTE: The epiclesis (invocation of the spirit) and fraction (breaking of the bread) are performed in silence, exactly recapitulating the silent action at the dinner table.*

## Lord's Prayer from The New Zealand Prayer Book

Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and for ever. Amen.

4X Closing CHANT

X3 Bell  
Candle