

Visions United Ash Wednesday Service
March 2, 2022

Welcome & Explanation of Service

Centering Music (*Instrumental*)

Good Enough

Daphna Pearson, Piano.

"Good Enough" theme song by Marsha Charles, Marcia McFee, Chuck Bell.
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Gathering Words

Video

Embracing the Imperfections of Life and Faith

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Lighting the Christ Candle

We hold the light of Christ before us.
praying that, with Jesus, we may find the
Christ presence
within us, among us, beyond us
leading us in the way of Love.

Song

MV#82 Bathe Me in Your Light (v1&3)

Lead: Daphna & John Pearson

Words: John Oldham ©2002. Music: Ron Klusmeier ©2002.
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Wisdom Reading Matthew 6:1-21 (*selected verses*)

Brian Botten

"Beware of practicing your piety before others to attract their attention; if you do this, you will have no reward from your Abba God in heaven.

When you do acts of charity for example, don't have it trumpeted before you; that is what hypocrites do in the synagogues and the streets, that they may be praised by others. The truth is, they've already received their reward in full...

And when you pray, don't behave like the hypocrites: they love to pray standing up in the synagogues and on the street corners for people to see them. The truth is, they have received their reward in full....

And when you pray, don't babble like the Gentiles. They think God will hear them if they use a lot of words. Don't imitate them. Your God knows what you need before you ask it...

And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces to show others that they are fasting. The truth is, they've already received their reward in full...

Do not store up earthly treasures for yourselves, which moths and rust destroy, and thieves can break in and steal. But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where neither moth nor rust can destroy them and thieves cannot break in and steal them.
For where your treasure is, there your heart will be as well.

Reflection

Shawn Redden

Calling on God

Holy One, God of Grace
Make yourself known to us.
Be present with us in this often-troubled journey of life.
Create in us hearts that are open to transformation.
Give us the patience of practice in this Lenten season
Ordering our days with time enough for you
and grace enough for love. Amen

Reflection on Ashes, Centering Prayers and Imposition of Ashes

As you impose ashes this day,
may you know deeply that you are not alone,
you are loved and held through all of life's transitions,
from birth to death to rebirth, over and over again.
God loves you and blesses you just the way you are.

Mark a cross on your forehead or the back of your hand, whichever you prefer, with these words: “You are human dust and the image of God.
 Always remember, God loves you and blesses you just as you are.”

Reading A Blessing *by Kate Bowler*

Song Be Thou My Vision (v1&2)

Daphna & John Pearson

Words: Irish 8th century, trans. Mary Elizabeth Byrne, 1905.

Music: Slane. Irish Traditional Melody.

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Closing Blessing for the Journey