

## **Invitation to the Imposition of Ashes**

Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us.

May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

“Remember you are dust,

**and to dust you shall return.”**

## **Imposition of Ashes**

### **Absolution**

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,

**Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you to everlasting life.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Closing Hymn:** Voices United #107: “*Sunday’s Palms are Wednesday’s Ashes*”

### **Closing Prayer**

**Holy God, we carry your mark of love with us:**

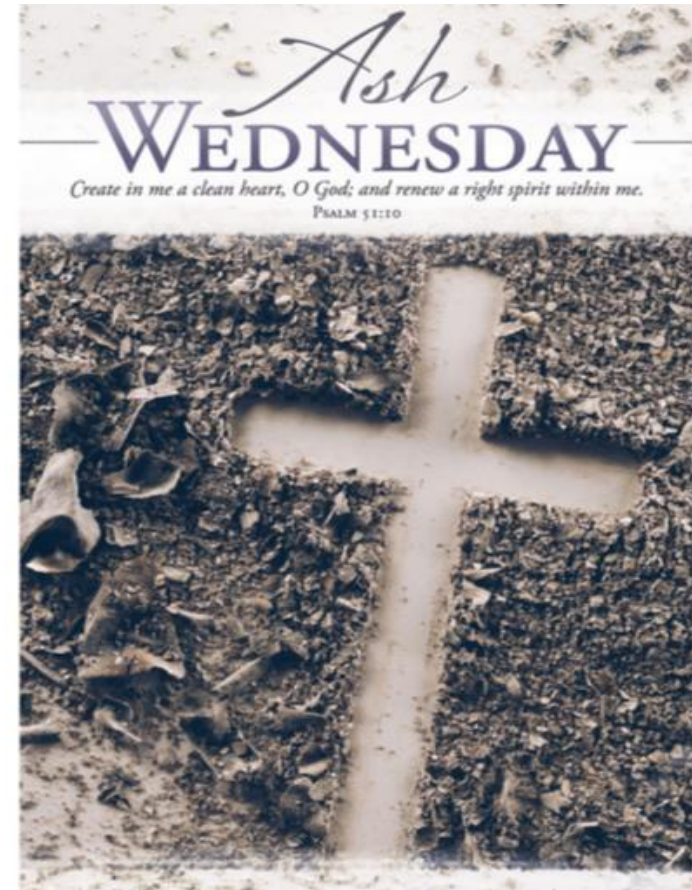
**Returning to the world, to share this promise and hope, this love, with all your people.**

**We go, in your name, in the Way of Jesus. Amen.**

### **Three-fold Amen**

*You are invited to leave in reflective silence. If you would like to add to our offering, our collection plate is on the table in the hallway as you exit. May you know God’s merciful presence accompanying you, on this Lenten journey, and in all that is to come.*

*Please join us for our weekly Sunday Services during Lent at 10am @ Squamish United Church, based on Leonard Cohen’s Hallelujah.*



Wednesday, February 14th

7pm – Squamish United Church

*A Combined Service with St. John the Divine Anglican Church &  
Squamish United Church*

*Led by Rev. Cameron Gutjahr & Rev. Anita Spiller*

# Welcome

\*Please stand as you are able for these parts of the service: Light lettering- one voice; **bold lettering – congregation**

**Gathering Music:** Voices United #129: “*Said Judas to Mary*”, sung by soloist Carol Grolman

## Welcome & Invitation

### Lighting the Christ Candle

**Reading:** “Ash Wednesday, Prelude”

### Opening Prayer

**Opening Hymn:** Voices United #108: “*Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights*”

### Invitation to Confession

Lent is a journey of deepening reflection and renewal, an opportunity to make new commitments in faith.

**We prepare for the journey by setting aside burdens that would otherwise weigh us down.**

Let us turn to God and confess our sin.

### Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, look on our hearts according to your unconditional love, according to your great mercy.

**Loving, forgiving God, our Rock and Redeemer,  
turn our hearts from stone,  
back to being open and ready for you.**

Creator God, let us remember with awe and new-found innocence the first time we met you privately in our souls.

**Loving, forgiving God, our Rock and Redeemer,  
let us never forget your love for us,  
brought among us in Jesus,  
guide and companion for our lives.**

Creator God, let us remember with awe and new-found innocence the repeated moments of invitation to surrender to you our whole hearts; our heartfelt cries; our heart’s needs and longings; our deepest confessions.

(a time of silent prayer)

**Loving, forgiving God, our Rock and Redeemer,  
create in us a clean heart.**

**Renew a right spirit within us that we might know peace and truth, in our beginning again.**

### Words of Assurance

**Scripture:** Isaiah 58:1-12

### Homily

**Hymn:** O Healing River

### The Litany of Ashes

These ashes remind us of our frailty, our mortality.

This water proclaims the grace of God.

The mark we bear calls us to walk the way of the cross.

The cleansing waters prepare us

to walk the way of the cross, renewed.

**We bow our heads before you, O God,**

**aware of our shortcomings.**

**Remembering our baptism,**

**the watermark of the cross upon us,**

**we also receive this ashen cross upon our foreheads –  
another sign that in life and death, we belong to you.**

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

