



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

Tsawwassen United Church

Ash Wednesday

Feb. 25, 2009, 7:00 PM

Welcome! Our theme for Lent is "Create in Me a Clean Heart." On this night, we recall that we are but dust, and yet, not even the grave can destroy the love of God. May you experience God's forgiveness!

PRELUDE: A Lenten Prayer

~ Brian Glyncannon

HYMN: Come and Find the Quiet Centre

VU 374

THE INVOCATION AND OPENING PRAYER

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING (*read responsively*): Joel 2:12-14

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning. Rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord, your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Who knows whether God will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God?

Return to the Lord, your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Why should it be said among the peoples, "Where is their God?"

Return to the Lord, your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

SPECIAL MUSIC: Just As I Am

~ William H. Bradbury

THE PSALM (*read responsively*): Psalm 51

VU 776

THE EPISTLE READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

HYMN: O God, How We Have Wandered

VU 112

THE MESSAGE: "But I Didn't Do It"

THE PRAYERS

(After each prayer: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE BLESSING OF ASHES:

God our Creator, you sent your beloved Son, Jesus, to be our brother. The burden of your love for humankind led him to accept death, death on a cross, so that all people might live. Though we were buried with Christ in baptism and raised up to a new life of freedom, we have not lived fully as your sons and daughters; your reign of love and justice is still not fully manifest in us. Bless these ashes and your people whose heads shall be marked with ashes. Grant that this may be a symbol of our inner renewal, a sign of our change and growth, a first step in our returning home to your love; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

THE HYMN DURING IMPOSITION: Dust and Ashes VU 105

THE WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: Dear Weaver of Our Lives' Design VU 623

THE CLOSING WORDS:

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

THE POSTLUDE: Ah, Holy Jesus

~ Johann Crüger