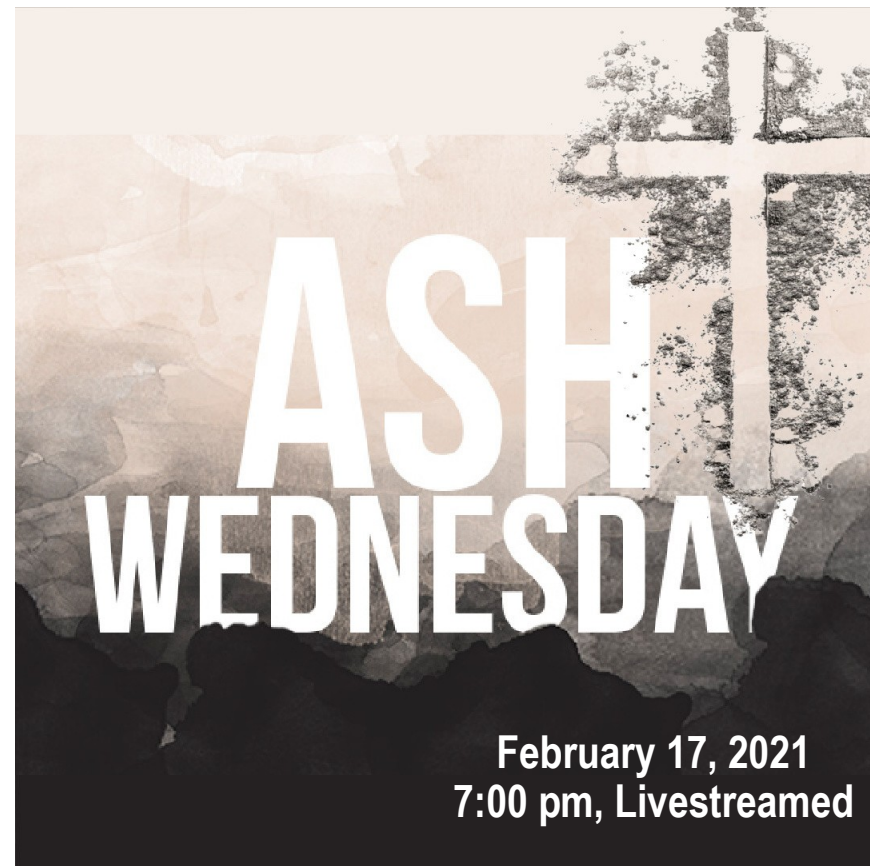


## What is Ash Wednesday?

Traditionally the palms that we waved on Palm Sunday are burned to ashes and brought out for use on Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday, ashes are placed, “imposed”, on our foreheads, or on the back of the hand, with a cross-shaped sign, saying, **“You are dust, and to dust you shall return,”** from Gen. 3:19. The ashes remind us of our mortality, the brevity of life, and our need for confession and avoidance of sin and pardon. At the same time, because the sign on our foreheads is cross-shaped, it’s meant to remind us of our baptism. **“We who have died in Christ will be raised with him.”** So the ultimate point of Ash Wednesday is to face up to some hard realities of our sinful nature, buoyed by our confident hope in the One who raised Jesus from the dead and who will have the last word over our lives, too.



February 17, 2021  
7:00 pm, Livestreamed

**Northwood Presbyterian Church**  
2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, FL 33761  
727-796-8090  
[www.northwoodpc.org](http://www.northwoodpc.org)

Chris Curvin, Pastor  
Paul Means, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Mission



Like us on Facebook!  
[facebook.com/npc.clearwater](https://facebook.com/npc.clearwater)

# ORDER OF WORSHIP ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17, 2021, 7:00 PM

## OPENING VOLUNTARY

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” Wayne L. Wold

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chris Curvin, Pastor

## GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*(based on Psalm 51: 1-17)*

Leader: O God, have mercy on us, we pray.

**People: In your mercy, make us clean from our sins.**

Leader: Wipe away every failing and make us new in your sight.

**People: Restore us, deliver us, and re-create us, O Lord.**

Leader: Today is the day of salvation. Let us worship God!

### HYMN

TALLIS’ CANNON

“Ash Wednesday Comes and, Lord, We Hear”

Ash Wednesday comes, and Lord, we hear  
The word for which our spirits yearn;  
Amid this world's distress and fear,  
We hear your loving call: "Return!"

"Return to me with all your heart"  
With fasting, weeping, mourning, too.  
O God, we seek a brand new start,  
A new beginning here with you.

You call to us — the old, the young;  
You summon nations strong and weak.  
When we have drifted toward the wrong,  
You call us back, your way to seek.

O God most merciful and kind,  
Your love is not a prize we earn;  
Yet in our life with you we find  
The joy that comes when we return.

*Text: Copyright © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.  
All rights reserved. Used by permission*

### PSALM

Psalm 51:1, 10-11

### SUNG CALL TO CONFESSION

Hal H. Hopson

*Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;  
Renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.*

*Three-personed God, fulfill the promise of your grace,  
that we, when all our searching ends, may see you face to face.*

—text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Used by permission

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Mighty Lord, we confess that we are lost without you. Forgive us. So often we forget that without you we are but dust and ashes with no hope beyond this life. Forgive us. In our assembly and in our daily lives keep our hearts and minds fixed on the cross of Christ and the study of God's Word to us; remembering that our hope rests in his death and resurrection. May our journey these forty days be one of faith in you, study of the Gospels and service to your world, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Joel 2:12-13  
Philemon 1:7

### MEDITATION

From Dust to Promise: “Refreshing Our Hearts”  
Chris Curvin, Pastor

## RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD

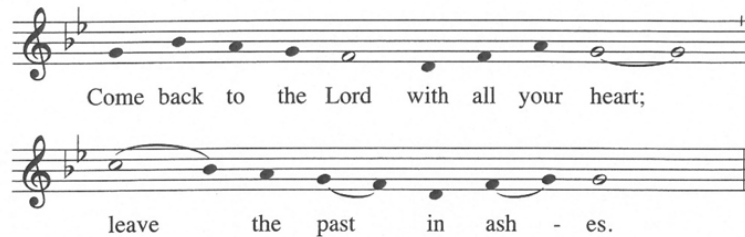
### THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*You are invited at this time to make the sign of the cross with a finger on your forehead or hand using dust or ashes or soil from the ground or potted plant, water or a healing ointment or oil. As you do, remember the words of Genesis 3:19, “You are from dust and to dust you shall return,” and the promise of faith in Christ, “in the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to eternal life.”*

### ASH WEDNESDAY SONG OF UNITY

*(all singing this refrain)* “Come Back to the Lord”  
Stephanie Carson, Soloist

Leo Nestor



Music Copyright © 2014 by GIA Publications, Inc. • All Rights Reserved

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

### BENEDICTION

### REPRISE REFRAIN

“Come Back to the Lord”

Nestor

Stephanie Carson, Music Director  
Tom Huffman, Organist & Associate Music Director