# An Order of Worship for

**Ash Wednesday**

## Livestreamed, 7:00 p.m.,

## First Christian Church, Richmond

## February 17, 2021

**Prelude**

**Statement** **of Purpose**

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. This observance goes back more than a thousand years.

This is how we enter the 40-day journey toward Easter.

This is how we prepare ourselves to welcome the risen Christ with lives renewed by the breath of his spirit.

This is how we cross into a season of self-examination, confession, and penitence.

We dedicate ourselves to meditate upon the scriptures and to converse with God in prayer.

We seek to be more faithful disciples of Christ, whose lives are shaped by the one whom we confess to be Lord and Savior of the world. To this end, let us worship God.

**Hymn No. 180, verses 1, 3, & 4**

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

**Prayer**

God of all mercy,

Create and make in us

new and penitent hearts.

As we lament our sins

and acknowledge our brokenness,

grant us your perfect forgiveness and peace.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Solo Betsy Grise**

**The Sign of the Ashes**

For more than a thousand years, Christian people have acknowledged the human condition before God through the solemn words of scripture and the sign of the cross. The ashes imposed on foreheads are made from burning the branches carried the previous year on Palm Sunday. This stain is the sign of our sin, our part in the death of Christ on the cross. These ashes are also the sign of our mortality.

This year, we choose to respect and protect one another in a way that prohibits the intimacy of this act. Nevertheless, we have this time to contemplate the meaning of this tradition.

**Scripture: Luke 18:9-14a**

**Hymn No. 579**

“Standing in the Need of Prayer”

**Sermon**

Standing in the Need of Prayer

**Hymn No. 600**

“Jesu, Jesu”

**Prayer**

May your Sprit’s cleansing fire burn within us throughout these 40 days, Holy God. Lift us from the dying embers of our inattention. Mark us with the sign of your holy passion. Make us ready to respond to the call of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Hymn No. 584, verses 1, 2, & 4**

“Father, I Stretch My Hands to Thee”

**Postlude**

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*Please save this Order of Worship for reference during the service on February 17.*

*Ash Wednesday Worship*

A close up of a spider

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