

ASH WEDNESDAY MEDITATION GUIDE

February 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday begins a forty-day journey of reflection, of reexamination, of recentering our lives as a people of faith. We recall the life, death, and resurrection of Christ and revisit the promises and preparations he has made to not only forgive us of our sins but to become those sins taking them to the cross where through his broken body their hold on us was broken and through his spilled blood they were washed away. This is a time of repentance but all of recommitment as we seek to draw closer to our Lord and his will for our lives.

We welcome you and invite you to spend time in prayer, in meditation, in reflection in the very presence of our Lord. Below are some prayers that can be read to bolster your own prayers and we have included some passages of scripture that can be read as we seek to draw closer to our Lord and Savior and his journey to the cross.

Our pastor is present and will administer the ashes upon request.

Thank you for spending this time with us as we open our hearts, minds, and souls to the movement of the Spirit seeking a deeper and more vibrant relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS:

Gracious God, today begins a period of inner reflection and examination. This special time invites me to see my life through the eyes of Christ, to reflect on the love of one who not counting himself as equal to God became like me so that through his life, death, and resurrection I might taste redemption, salvation, and the promise of everlasting life. As I reflect on the life, I have lived grant me the wisdom and grace to acknowledge my failings, my shortcomings, my sins knowing that they are forgiven through a heart that is repentant and ready to be transformed. I open my soul up to your presence, may your loving kindness flow over me and cover me as I give myself over to you.

Lord, have mercy on us. We confess our sins to you for we have fallen short of your glory and without your glory and love for us, we would be but dust.

We come before you with repentant hearts knowing that through your love and commitment to us, you offer us forgiveness. Draw us closer to you so that we can know you better. Give us a right spirit that we may trust in you and your strength to help us overcome all that which seeks to separate us from you.

Heavenly Father, as we enter this time of reflection, we remember how you lived, how you faced temptation and through the Word of God overcame each and every one. We are reminded that we are but dust and can do nothing without you. We remember how your love was reflected in not just your words, but your actions up to and leading through the cross.

Help us to recenter our lives upon you not just for these forty days or so, but for the balance of our earthly lives knowing that if we put our complete faith and trust in you, you have promised to prepare a place for us and come and bring us to you so that where you are we can be also.

Meditation Scriptures:

Genesis 3:19

Joel 2:12-13

Hebrews 12:1-3

Luke 9:51-53

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

Philippians 3:8-11

Romans 3:20-26

Mark 1:14-15

Job 42: 5-6

Ecclesiastes 3:20

Life in the Valley

Wednesday, Feb 14	9:00am New Horizons (Fellowship) 12:00noon Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary) 5:00pm Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary) 6:30pm CPR Certification Group (Choir Room) Valentine's Day
Thursday, Feb 15	9:00am New Horizons (Fellowship) 10:00am Disciples Women 6:30pm Barony Group (Blue Room)
Friday, Feb 16	9:00am New Horizons (Fellowship)
Saturday, Feb 17	9:00am ESQG Give-it-a-try Workshop (Fellowship) 10:00am CPR Certification Group (Choir Room)
Sunday, Feb 18	First Sunday in Lent 10:30am Worship Week of Compassion Offering
Monday, Feb 19	President's Day Voice Deadline 8:00am Manna Market Prep (Fellowship) 6:00pm Bell Choir Group (Yellow Room)
Tuesday, Feb 20	8:00am Manna Market Sale (Fellowship) 6:30pm Zoom Bible Study Class
Wednesday Feb 21	9:00am New Horizons (Fellowship) 11:30am Men's Luncheon 6:30pm CPR Certification Group (Choir Room)
Thursday Feb 22	9:00am New Horizons (Fellowship) 11:15am Lenten Brown Bag Lunch and Program 6:00pm BVM Dinner at the PawPaw Patch (Homewood)
Friday Feb 23	9:00am New Horizons (Fellowship)
Saturday Feb 24	10:00pm CPR Certification Group (Choir Room)
Sunday Feb 25	Second Sunday in Lent 10:30am Worship Week of Compassion Offering

Valley Christian Church

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

"People Serving God Serving People"

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024 5:00pm



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