



WEDNESDAY

February 14, 2024
6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.
Let us be marked
not for false humility
or thinking
we are less
than we are

but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made,
and the stars that blaze
in our bones,
amid the galaxies that spiral
inside the smudge
we bear.

-Jan Richardson

GATHER

Prelude: Wondrous Love

–arr. Dale Wood

One: Somewhere this Lent
surprise us with love.
Move us from taking life for granted.

**All: Remind us to notice the color of someone's eyes,
the sound of their voice.
Quiet us enough to search
 really search,
 the sky
 a palette of golds, blues, and whites
 sameness at first glance, and then ...
Urge us to take off our shoes and to walk upon your earth
skin to skin, dust to dust.**

Sing: Though I May Speak

Hymn No. 693

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

PRAY

Dear God, who makes all things new,
new stars, new dust, new life
take my heart,
every hardened edge and measured beat,
and create something new in me.
I need your newness, God,
the rough parts of me made smooth,
the stagnant stirred;
the stuck freed;
the unkind forgiven.
And then, by the power of you spirit,
turn me toward your love.

Respond: Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God Hymn No. 423

Create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart,
O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence;
cast me not away from your presence;
cast me not away from your presence
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation;
restore to me the joy of your salvation;
restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

LISTEN

The Gospel of John 15:9-17
“No Greater Love”

RECEIVE ASHES

Sing: Would I Have Answered When You Called?

Would I have answered when you called, "Come, follow, follow me!"
Would I at once have left behind both work and family?
Or would the old, familiar round have held me by its claim
and kept the spark within my heart from bursting into flame?
Would I have followed where you led through ancient Galilee,
On roads unknown, by ways untried, beyond security?
Or would I soon have hurried back where home and comfort drew,
Where truth you taught would not disturb the ordered world I knew?
Would I have matched my step with yours when crowds cried, "Crucify!"
When on a rocky hill I saw a cross against the sky?
Or would I too have slipped away and left you there alone,
A dying king with crown of thorns upon a terrible throne?
O Christ, I cannot search my heart through all its tangled ways,
Nor can I with a certain mind my steadfastness appraise.
I only pray that when you call, "Come, follow, follow me!"
You'll give me strength beyond.

DEPART

One: God of new beginnings,
where we see the ashes of our failure,
you see the stardust of a fresh start.

**All: Turn us toward each other
and lead us into quiet spaces
when the noise of the street corner
drowns out your voice.**

One: Beyond life, beyond death,
show us how to live in you.