

ASH WEDNESDAY

Worship

2023 LENT

February 22, 2023



Seeking:

Is this the fast
that I choose?

Gather

- Leader: We gather together at the edge of a new season.
People: We stand together on the cusp of something new.
Leader: Will we venture into self-reflection?
People: Will we respond to God's invitation?
Leader: Will we seek deeper faith?
People: What kind of faith will God build within us?
Leader: Listen, God is calling.

Sing Hymn No. 442

Just As I Am

Pray

Dear God,
How many times a day could we choose love?
How many times could we choose justice?
How many times could we speak kindly to ourselves?
How many times could we offer grace?
How many times, God? And how often do we miss it?
Forgive us for choosing our own paths.
Forgive us for following the world's measure instead of yours.
Return our hearts to you and guide us in these days of Lent.

Respond

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!**

Listen

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 58:5-12
Meditation: Going through the motions
Solo: Walk This Lonesome Valley

Distribute Ashes

Sing Hymn No. 542 God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Depart

- Leader: We believe in a God who chooses freedom,
who unties every rope and carries our burdens.
**People: We believe in a God who ushers in the poor and hungry
who has a seat saved for all of us.**
Leader: We believe in a God who walks before us in the parched places,
who rescues our bones who tends us like a gardener.
**People: And because we believe, we strive to choose love.
Because we believe, we strive to pursue justice,
because we believe ... we will seek God.
Amen.**