

Ash Sunday/Wednesday Service –February 14, 2024

www.balzacunitedchurch.com

Clergy: Kelly Grittner

Worship Service Leader: Dr Alex Shawn

Music Ministry: Lee Dowan & Dr Alex Shawn

Prelude: *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* arr. M. Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

Land Acknowledgement:

“As we gather together, let us pause to remember that we live, work, and worship on lands that are, by law, the unceded territories of the nations of Treat 7. As Christ’s people, may we be people of love, of truth, and of reconciliation. May we live with respect on this land, and in peace and friendship with its people.”

Invitation to Worship:

The Grace of the Lord, Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God’s mercy endures forever.

Hymn: *Throughout these Lenten Days and Nights* VU 108

Opening Prayer:

Holy One, create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Do not cast us away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from us. Lead us anew in the

paths of life that we might return to you with all our heart.

Amen

Hymn: *Dust and Ashes Touch our Face* VU 105

Scripture: Joel 2:12 – 13
Psalm 51 Refrain 2 p. 776
(Beginning on the last paragraph of p. 776)

Homily: *“We are but Dust, and to Dust we shall Return”*

Thanksgiving Over Ashes:

God of dust and ash, you fashioned us from the dust of the earth, and to dust we shall return.

May the ashes from last year’s palms that we place on our foreheads this day remind us of who we are and whose we are.

Draw us back to you, O God, for you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Heal the hardness of our hearts, that we may be faithful disciples of the one who makes all things new. Amen.

The Sign of the Cross with Ashes:

You are invited to come forward and receive the sign of the cross on your forehead or on your hand. As you are marked, you will hear the words: “God loves you. You are forgiven.”

Music: *I’d Rather Have Jesus* arr. M. Hayes

