

**Bryson City Presbyterian Church**

**February 14, 2018**

**ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP**

---

Gathering Music

Celtic Trio

*"Dust in the Wind"*

Call to Confession

Psalm 51: 10-12; 17

**(All) 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.  
Restore to us the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in us a willing spirit.**

(silent prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

(One) The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Friends, hear the good news of the Gospel,

**(All) In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

Old Testament Lesson

Rev. Terry L. Hanna

Isaiah 58: 6-9

Spiritual Song

*Wounded World that Cries for Healing*

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 6: 16-21

(silent prayer)

Imposition of Ashes

These ashes are an outward symbol of true repentance, calling you to faith in Jesus Christ, whose death, burial and resurrection take away all your sins and give you eternal life. Come forward to receive these ashes remembering...

***from dust we come and to dust we will return.***

Spiritual Song (as you come forward)

*Lay Aside Your Passing Pleasures*

Charge

Epistle Lesson

II Corinthians 5: 16-2

\*Benediction

God of the daylight, you come also in darkness, and even in shadows you make a home. Be rest to the weary and solace to the brokenhearted; be healing to the sick, and to the troubled, be peace. Be our comfort, our dreaming, our sleep, our delight; Breathe through these hours, O great God of night.

**Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, to Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.**

Postlude

Livingston

*Jesus, We Remember Thee*

## Empty Me

("Guerrillas of Grace," Ted Loder)

Gracious and Holy One,  
creator of all things  
and of emptiness,

I Come to you  
full of much that clutters and distracts,  
stifles and burdens me,  
and makes me a burden to others.

Empty me now  
of gnawing dissatisfactions,  
of anxious imaginings,  
of fretful preoccupations,  
of nagging prejudices,  
of old scores to settle,  
and of the arrogance of being right.

Empty me  
of the ways I unthinkingly think of myself as powerless,  
as a victim,  
as determined by sex, age, race,  
as being less than I am,  
or as other than yours.

Empty me  
of the disguises and lies  
in which I hide myself from other people  
and from my responsibility  
for my neighbors and for the world.

Hollow out in me a space  
in which to find peace and a whole heart,  
a forgiving spirit and holiness,  
the springs of laughter,  
and the will to reach boldly for abundant life for myself  
and the whole human family.

HAVE MERCY ON ME, GOD,  
ACCORDING TO YOUR FAITHFUL LOVE!

—PSALM 51:1

