

Bryson City Presbyterian Church
February 26, 2020
Ash Wednesday Worship

Gathering Music arr. Shackley
Before the Throne of God Above

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 you presence,
and do not take your Holy Spirit from us.
Restore to us the joy of you 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 Psalm 32:1-7

Musical Interlude arr. Martin
Traditional Irish Melody

Gospel Reading Matthew 6: 9

**(All) Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it
is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And
forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our
debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but
rescue us from the evil one.**

Matthew 6: 14, 15
(silent prayer)

Gospel Lesson Matthew 6: 16-18
(silent prayer)

Gospel Lesson Matthew 6: 19-21
(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.

Musical Interlude arr. Martin
Meditation on a Folk Song

*Charge and Benediction

I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all
things, and to Christ Jesus, who sees with the heart, to
keep the commandment to love God and neighbor, so you
may be free from reproach until the time of His appearing.

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

Pastor: Rev Terry Hanna
Minister of Music: Rev Rachel Lackey
Leading worship this evening

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.