



**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
CANTON CENTER, CT**

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 14, 2024 ~ 6:30 PM



*Trusting with the heart leads to righteousness and
confessing with the mouth leads to salvation
Romans 10:10*

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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

WELCOME

PRELUDE

In Pilate's Hall

Mary Kay Beall/John Carter

ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER

Loving, forgiving, and compassionate God, Creator of all that is good, Your forgiveness knows no bounds. We come before You with open hearts, aware of the choices we've made that haven't always aligned with the teachings of Jesus. We regret the times we've spoken or acted in ways that caused harm, even if unintentionally. Instead of shame and burden, fill us with a gentle desire to learn and grow. Ignite our hearts with the hope of renewal, reminding us of Your unwavering grace. May our sincerity wash away any lingering shadows, granting us the peace of your forgiveness and the strength to move forward. We trust in Your love, boundless and everlasting, offered freely through Jesus Christ. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In our humanness we rise from the ashes of our mistakes, lifted by the immeasurable love of God. Let us, then, forever embrace the gift of His forgiveness, whispering our unending gratitude in every beat of our hearts, in every breath we draw. And so, with joyous conviction, let us proclaim: **Thanks be to God!**

*HYMN

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

Pilgrim (red) #642

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Hebrew's 12:1-3

Pew Bible pg. 978

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

Pew Bible pg. 940

MESSAGE

THE BLESSING OF THE ASHES

Almighty and merciful God, You have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so we may remember only by Your gracious gift of Jesus Christ are we given everlasting life. Bless these ashes that they may convey to us Your healing power that covers our transgressions through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

All are invited to come forward to receive ashes on their foreheads or hands.

Please form a line in the center aisle and return to your pews by the side aisles.

*HYMN

Be Still, My Soul

Chalice (blue) 566

*BENEDICTION

**Merciful God, send us out into the world with Your blessing.
You called us forth from the dust of the earth; You claimed us for
Christ in the Waters of Baptism. Look upon us as we enter these
Forty Days bearing the mark of ashes and bless our journey
through the desert of Lent to the wellspring of rebirth.
All that we do and pray is in the name of Jesus, Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Remember Me

Deborah Govenor

