

## Thank you for joining us!

## March 2, 2025

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### **Ash Wednesday**

March 5, 2025 – 5:30pm

#### Prelude

Words of Gathering – from the Prophet Joel

Leader: Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

We gather in the dimness of evening

People: to be with the God who brightens the shadows of our lives.

Leader: We gather in the quiet of this place,

People: to be with Jesus, knowing that nothing

past, present, or future separates us.

Leader: We gather to be marked as disciples,

People: to be fed for the journey through Lent,

to be sealed by the Spirit as God's own..

Centering Silent Prayer and Music

You wait on this evening, Patient God, for us to come back: to stop going away from you on our self-focused travels; to set aside our empty fears; to cease shaping you in our image, so we can discover you closer than we ever dare imagined.

You wait for us this night, Companion of our hearts, for us to follow once more: leaving the shuttered corners of our lives; refusing to go

from one failed promise to another; coming out of the panic rooms we have built in our souls, so you can take us by the hand to lead us to resurrection life.

You wait in scattered ashes of our lives, Spirit of silence, for us to find you: in our sisters and brothers who are willing to hold us up when we falter, so you can embrace us with joy and hope in every moment.

Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

Hymn of Intercession: All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night #675

#### Call to Confession

On this night, we begin our journey to Easter. Before we can take the first step, we must admit how we have not been faithful to our God. Let us pray together and in silence...

Prayer of Confession (unison)

We have trouble telling the truth, God of broken hearts, yet we must admit on this night how we have trouble being your people. We may not trample the poor, but we sometimes walk right past them. We don't receive bribes, but we are more privileged than many around us. We trust more in ourselves than in you, and spend far too much time patting ourselves on the back, rather than holding out a hand to others. Where can we go for forgiveness but to you, God of the ashes? When we are greedy, you promise to be gracious. When we have trouble confronting injustice, you stand at our side. When we struggle to seek good, you point us to Jesus, our Brother, our Savior, who shows us how

to turn our back on evil to follow him. Please hear our silent prayers.

Silent Prayer

**Assurance of Forgiveness** 

Leader: God refuses to stand far off, but comes close to us – to hear our prayers, to touch our hearts with forgiveness, and to walk with us during this holy season and beyond.

People: We have no need to go anyplace else, but into the comforting and restoring heart of the One who loves us. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. Amen.

Hymn: We Are Forgiven #447

Reading from the Psalter: Psalm 139: 7-12

Silent Reflection

Reading from the Gospels: Luke 18:9-14

Meditation

Imposition of Ashes

**Unison Prayer:** 

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, that we may show forth your glory in the world. By the cross and passion of our Savior, bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection. Amen.

Hymn: Abide With Me #836

Benediction

**Postlude** 

# 675 All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

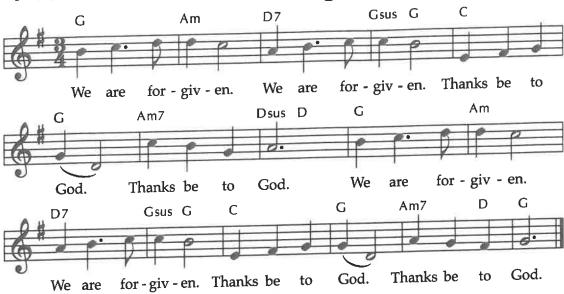


\*May be sung as a canon.

Originally consisting of twelve stanzas, this was the bedtime hymn of the boys at Winchester School in England. Now it is one of the best-known evening hymns in English (usually matched with this tune and sung in canon), and its final stanza has taken on a life of its own.

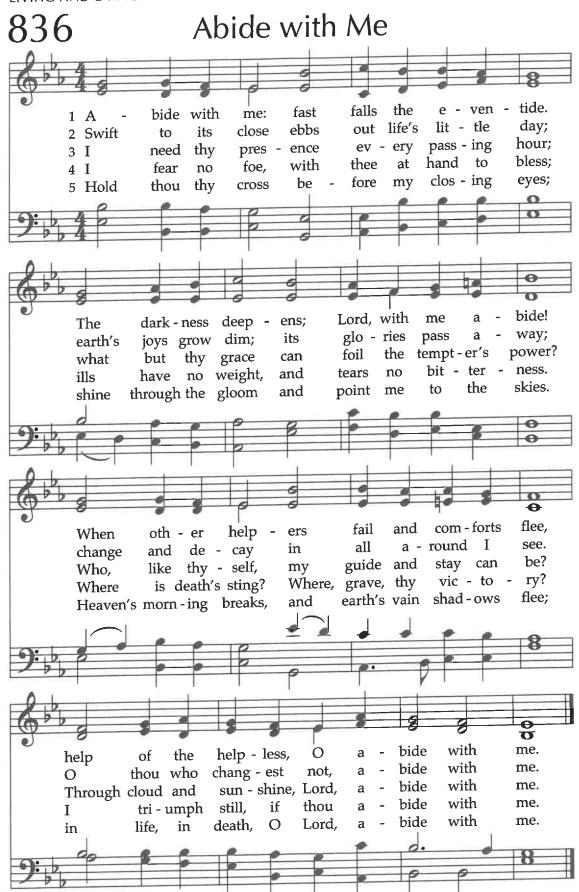
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## We Are Forgiven



To sing, rather than simply say, a response to the Declaration of Forgiveness has the effect of making the moment both more affirmative and more corporate. The musical repetition of the two sentences also strengthens awareness of what it means to be assured of God's pardon.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1995 Music © 1995 Hal H. Hopson WE ARE FORGIVEN 10.8.10.8



By blending end of day and end of life, the imagery of this well-known Victorian hymn has made it valuable for both evening services and funerals. Although the author wrote his own music for it, the present tune has been firmly associated with this text for over 150 years.