



**February 18, 2026**

Ash Wednesday

7:00pm

**Interim Pastor:** Rev. Frank Yates

**Liturgist:** Birgitta Gustafson

**Director of Music:** Nancy Leffler

## Rio Rancho Presbyterian Church

**Prelude**      *I Am His and He Is Mine*

**Welcome & Words of Gathering** (from the Prophet Joel)

**Call to Worship**      Birgitta Gustafson

Leader: 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.**

**\*Hymn #675**      *All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night*

**Call to Confession**      Birgitta Gustafson

**Prayer of Confession** (unison):

**All: 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. Hear now 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.**

**Musical Interlude**      *Let Us Keep the Feast*

**Reading from the Psalter**      **Psalm 139: 7-12**

(This can be found on p. 566 of your pew Bible.)

**Special Music**

*By Our Love*

- sung by Anne Kinney

**Reading from the Gospel: Luke 18: 9-14**

(This can be found on p. 955-956 of your pew Bible.)

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Meditation**

Honest to God

Rev. Frank Yates

**\*Hymn #433**

*Sign Us With Ashes* (verses 1-3)

**Imposition of Ashes**

*As part of tonight's worship, the imposition of ashes will be offered. This practice may not be familiar to everyone. Ashes have been used in Christian churches to mark the beginning of Lent since at least the 10th Century, and ashes are mentioned in scripture as a symbol of purification and repentance. We offer the imposition of ashes tonight as a physical reminder of our mortality and sin; an assurance of God's forgiveness and salvation.*

(Worshippers may come forward to receive the mark of the cross on their foreheads or the back of the hands. The ashes are from the palms of Palm Sunday.)

**Meditative Music**

*Meditation on "Erhalt Uns, Herr"*

**Unison Prayer**

Birgitta Gustafson

**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 #836:**            *Abide With Me*

**Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**                    *Redeeming Love*

Thank you for worshipping with us this evening!

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

1 All praise to thee, my God, this night, for all the  
2 For - give me, Lord, through Christ, I pray, the wrong that  
3 O may my soul on thee re - pose, and with sweet  
4 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all

bless - ings of the light! Keep me, O keep me  
I have done this day, that I, be - fore I  
sleep mine eye - lids close. Re - fresh my strength, for  
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye

safe from harm with - in the shel - ter of thine arm!  
sleep, may be at peace with neigh - bor, self, and thee.  
thine own sake, to serve thee well when I a - wake.  
heaven - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

*\*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.

# 433

# Sign Us with Ashes

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm) (Am7)  
 Refrain B<sup>b</sup> F Gm Dm Cm7  
*All*

Sign us with ash - es, mer - ci - ful God, chil - dren of

(G) (Am7) (D) (G) (D)  
 B<sup>b</sup> Cm7 F B<sup>b</sup> F

dust, as to dust we re - turn. Sign us with ash - es,

(Em) (Bm) (Am7) (D7) (Gsus) (G)  
 Gm Dm Cm7 F7 B<sup>b</sup>sus B<sup>b</sup> *Fine*

mer - ci - ful God. Mark us and make us your own.

(D) (G) (C)  
 F B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>  
*Leader or All*

1 Sure - ly, you a - lone can save us. You pay our

- 2 Sure - ly, you a - lone up - hold us. You give us  
 3 Sure - ly, you a - lone can heal us. Yours is the  
 4 Sure - ly, you a - lone can free us. You break the  
 5 Sure - ly, you a - lone re - fine us. You give us  
 6 Sure - ly, you a - lone re - deem us. You fill our

(G) (D) (G) (D)  
 B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F

price with pre - cious blood. Reach - ing through your

strength for all our needs. Shield - ing with a  
 will to make us whole. Sooth - ing with a  
 bonds of guilt and sin. Brac - ing, till we  
 grace for lives made new, forg - ing, through your  
 dust with ho - ly breath. Burst - ing from the

The refrain here recalls the imposition of ashes, a ritual based on Genesis 3:19, which has been a part of Christian worship on Ash Wednesday since the 9th century. As *The Book of Common Worship* states, "This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life."

CONFESSION

(G) (C) (G) (Dsus) (D)  
 B $\flat$  E $\flat$  B $\flat$  F $\sharp$  F  
*to Refrain*

great com - pas - sion, you lift up your peo - ple with love.  
 fa - ther's fa - vor, you bless us with par - don and peace.  
 moth - er's kind-ness, the con - trite of heart, you con - sole.  
 walk up - right - ly, you bol - ster our hope once a - gain.  
 fire and ra - diance, a sac - ri - fice wor - thy for you.  
 grave in glo - ry, you rise from the ash - es of death!

## 836

## Abide with Me

1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;  
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide!  
 earth's joys grow dim; its glo - ries pass a - way;  
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?  
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
 shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see.  
 Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?  
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
 Heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.  
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.  
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.  
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

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.