

Why Ash Wednesday?

Traditionally, the Christian church has observed the seven weeks before Easter as a time of penitence and spiritual self-examination.

Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, derives its name from the ancient practice of marking the foreheads of worshipers with ashes from the unused palm branches of the previous year. Ashes historically have had a dual significance.

First, they are Old Testament symbols of sadness and humility. Job, in the midst of all his troubles, cried out to God from the ash heap.

The second symbolic meaning of ashes is as a reminder of our mortality. Each of us faces the inevitability of physical death. Our bodies and material possessions eventually will turn to dust and ashes. This is a reminder that we dare not trust in things that crumble. But Lent does not leave us on the ash heap. It begins with Ash Wednesday, but ends with Easter. And Easter proclaims that, through Christ, God resurrects us from our dust and ashes, makes us new creatures and brings life out of death!

Clarksville Cumberland Presbyterian Church

1410 Golf Club Lane – Clarksville, Tennessee 37040
Church Office: 931-648-0817 Email: office@clarksvillecpc.com Website: www.clarksvillecpc.com
Sunday: Fellowship - 9:00 A.M. ~ Sunday School - 9:30 A.M. ~ Worship - 10:30 A.M.
Wednesday: W.O.W. - 5:15 - 7:00 P.M. ~ Choir Practice - 7:00 P.M.

Remember
all are of
the dust,
and all
turn to
dust again

Ash Wednesday Service

February 18th, 2026

6:00p.m.

Prelude

Ethebet Gibson

Welcome

Rev. Jimmy Byrd

Light of Christ Enters

Acolytes

Call to Worship

Rev. Jimmy Byrd

L: As we enter into this season of Lent, we remember the words of your servant Paul, who said, "the wages of sin is death."

P: Even though we have been bought with the blood of Christ, we often turn away from you Lord and towards our own wicked desires.

L: As we prepare to receive ashes this day, remind us that we only have one life to live. Remind us of our baptism, where we turned from death to life.

P: Keep us in your faithful arms until you return to judge the living and the dead.

Prayer

Rev. Jimmy Byrd

Scripture Reading

"Matthew 4:1-11"

Rev. Jimmy Byrd

*Hymn of Preparation

"Be Thou My Vision"

No. 532

Meaning of the Service

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

No. 538

Hymn of Confession

Rev. Jimmy Byrd

Time of Confession

LEADER: We come before God as a sign of our humility and submission to God.

ALL: Most holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, that we lack any righteousness of our own, that we come before you, unworthy of your love. We have often failed to be your people, by our own fault, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

LEADER: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

PEOPLE: Have mercy on us, Lord.

LEADER: Too often, we have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE: Have mercy on us, Lord.

LEADER: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: our pride, our hypocrisy, and the impatience of our lives,

PEOPLE: We confess to you, Lord.

LEADER: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

PEOPLE: We confess to you, Lord.

LEADER: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

PEOPLE: We confess to you, Lord.

LEADER: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done; for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

PEOPLE: Accept our repentance, Lord.

LEADER: For all false judgments and for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors.

PEOPLE: Accept our repentance, Lord.

LEADER: Restore us, O Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

PEOPLE: Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

LEADER: Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

PEOPLE: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

LEADER: By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

PEOPLE: We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

LEADER: The Lord is patient with us, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. God so loved this world and His people that God sent Christ to reconcile the world. The good news for you this day is that God pardons those who truly repent and transforms those who trust in Him for salvation with sincere hearts. In the name of Jesus, who is the Christ, I proclaim the forgiveness of sins to all who have drawn near to God in sincere confession. Know that you are reconciled, accepted, and loved. Let us pray:

ALL: O God, we implore you to fill us with your Holy Spirit that those things we do on this day may please you and that the rest of our lives may be pure and holy, serving you and loving others, and that at the last, we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

"Lead Me to Calvary"

No. 211 v 1,4

Thanksgiving Over the Ashes

Rev. Jimmy Byrd

Almighty 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 that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

(Please proceed to the front through center aisle, return to seat using outer aisles.)

Hymn of Reflection

"Near the Cross"

No. 549

Benediction

Rev. Jimmy Byrd

Postlude

Ethebet Gibson

Recessional

*Indicates—Congregation Please Stand, If Able