

# Order of Worship for Ash Wednesday

## PRELUDE

*What Wondrous Love Is This* (setting by J. Carter)  
Gaye Herndon, organ

## WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

## HEARING THE WORD

**Old Testament Reading** Joel 2:2-18

**Special Music** *Create in Me a Clean Heart* (Jeff Reeves)  
Stephany Nystrand, soloist

### Reading of Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness;  
in your compassion blot out my offense.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin.

***Lord have mercy upon us.***

My offences truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done.

***Lord have mercy upon us.***

A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

***Lord have mercy upon us.***

Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,  
O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

***Lord have mercy upon us.***

### Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The fruit of the Spirit is love  
**We have loved darkness rather than light,  
and loved you too little and ourselves too much.**

**Renew in us the fruit of your Spirit**

The fruit of the Spirit is joy,  
**But we have been sour, and bitter,  
and the joy of the LORD has been absent.**

**Renew in us the fruit of your Spirit**

The fruit of the Spirit is peace,  
**But we have fretted and worried.**

**We have forgotten the finished work of Christ and doubted your faithful presence.**

**Renew in us the fruit of your Spirit**

The fruit of the Spirit is patience,

**But we have snapped at others, and questioned your wise timing.**

**Renew in us the fruit of your Spirit**

The fruit of the Spirit is kindness,

**But we have been harsh, cutting, and biting,**

**So unlike our Lord Jesus Christ, who prayed for his persecutors.**

**Renew in us the fruit of your Spirit**

The fruit of the Spirit is goodness,

**But we have often chosen the passing pleasures of sin, over your good laws.**

**Renew in us the fruit of your Spirit**

The fruit of the Spirit is faithfulness,

**But we have been unreliable; we have let others down,**

**and have not taken our baptismal vows and covenants seriously**

**Renew in us the fruit of your Spirit**

The fruit of the Spirit is gentleness

**But we have been unwilling to yield, and stubborn in our anger.**

**Renew in us the fruit of your Spirit**

The fruit of the Spirit is self-control

**But our wills have been weak, and our words too strong.**

**We are quick to respond and slow to listen.**

**Renew in us the fruit of your Spirit**

**Lord's Prayer**

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

**POSTLUDE**

*What Wondrous Love Is This* (arr. J. Carter)

Gaye Herndon, piano