Ash Wednesday

February 11th Main Quad, from 1.00pm

Let the path lead you to the centre. At the centre, find your heart. In your heart, find the sacred heart of Christ: entwined with Abba Father; given in love; unyielding in passion; pulsing with grace and forgiveness.

(icon by Mario Sanchez)
Welcome to this public service. In your own time, undertake any or all of the following activities. It is in the main quad. There is no secluded place. Notice how the day goes on around.

1. Read the liturgy

2. Walk
   remove your shoes and walk the labyrinth;
   carry a prayer: **Lord Jesus Christ,**
   **Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

3. Feel
   Put your hand into the grain. Feel the texture. Let the grains run through your hand. Watch as some of the husk is separated and blows away.

   Put your hand into the bowl of water. Dry it with the towel. After he washed their feet, Jesus said: “I have set the example, and you should do for each other exactly what I have done for you.”

4. Listen
   “Jesus’ blood never failed me yet.” (Tom Waits) Gavin Bryars

5. Receive
   Receive the ashes.
   Reach out your wrists and be marked with ash in the sign of the cross.

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**Picture:** The winnowing fork

Even today, the harvest can still be tossed into the air using the winnowing fork. The heavy grain falls to the floor while the husk and chaff blow to the side. The waste is swept up and burned, never to contaminate and spoil the harvest.

John the Baptist refers to Jesus as the Winnower describing the action as good news (Luke 3.15-20). And it is! (Not because the winnowing separates good people from bad people.) The winnowing separates from within people the good from the bad. This is the good news: the waste from our lives is taken from us, never to be given back. The Winnower is perfect love, wishing only blessing and fullness of life.

What would be good to be released from? What habits, weaknesses, hurts, or unripe desires would you do well to be freed from?
ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY in the Quad

Prayer of Preparation
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God; have mercy on me. (repeat)

Prayer
Almighty and merciful God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive all whose hands and hearts are open: create in us new and gentle hearts, cover us with your full and perfect grace; winnow from us all that is chaff and dead, and nurture us into fullness of life. through Jesus Christ our Redeemer
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

Reading: Philippians 2.1-11  He Took on the Status of a Slave
(The Message)

Following Jesus? Has his love has made any difference in your life? Has being in a community of the Spirit of Christ meant anything? Actually, if you have a heart, if you care: agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don’t push your way to the front; don’t sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don’t be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand to others.
Copy Jesus Christ; imitate his thinking and actions.

Christ was truly God.
But he did not try to remain equal with God.
Instead he gave up everything and became a slave, when he became like one of us.

Christ was humble. He obeyed God and even died on a cross. Then God gave Christ the highest place and honoured his name above all others. So at the name of Jesus everyone will bow down, those in heaven, on earth, and under the earth. And to the glory of God the Father everyone will openly agree, “Jesus Christ is Lord!”.

Kyrie
Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.
Examination:
our desires – what do we think about most? What do we long for?
our fears – what are they? Who or what do we define ourselves against?
our wounds – how does our pain separate us from others, from God?

Prayer (with ash):
Loving God, you create us from the dust of the earth; and to the dust we shall return.
May these ashes be for us a sign of our honesty; our frank acknowledgment of our mortality and tendency for self-deception; in this ash, remind us that the cross of Christ and his resurrection is the balm that brings wholeness to our hearts, our souls and our world.
Through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Those who desire to receive the ashing come forward. Follow the path of the labyrinth. The sign of the cross in ash is made to the inside of the wrist (or the forehead).

Priest:
Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Look to Jesus and know, God longs for you to be whole. From dust to dust, through death into life, Jesus calls: ‘don’t be afraid, choose life.’

Follow the path of the labyrinth out.

Reconciliation

In the resurrection, the crucified and risen innocent victim returns not to bring revenge, but peace: “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” John 20.21

Go from here, copy Jesus;
be fully human.
Honour your love of God in your love of neighbour.