

ASH WEDNESDAY



Don't take it personal, it's just

smash

your

idols

leht 2023

February 22, 2023

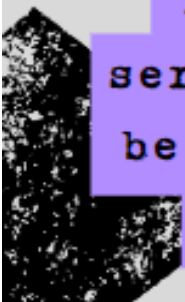


A WORD ABOUT THIS LENT

LENT! 2023 will be based on **The Idolatry of God** by Peter Rollins.

The book posits that the advertising formula of the idol

"Buy this product and your problems are solved" has been transferred by the church onto God: "get right with God and all your problems are solved."



We will SMASH this formula of idolatry through our worship series. Each week, something will be removed from the sanctuary in preparation for Holy Week.

**PRELUDE
WELCOME**

CALL TO WORSHIP

**WE GATHER AGAIN TO HEAR
THAT,**

**FROM ASH WE CAME. FROM
ASH WE SHALL RETURN.**

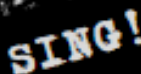
**HOLY ONE, BLESS THIS
GATHERING. BE WITH US IN OUR
HELP US BE WHERE OUR FEET
ARE.**

**HELP US BE PRESENT TO
YOU. TO THE NEEDS OF OUR
NEIGHBOR. TO OUR OWN
FEELINGS, WHATEVER WE
MAY BE.**

**YOU ARE IN AND THROUGH
IT ALL.**


**THANK YOU LORD, THAT
YOU ARE WITH US EVEN
NOW. AMEN.**






SING!


IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE




1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;
4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;
in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;
your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,
All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.
in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.




Walter C. Smith, minister of the Free Church of Scotland and later moderator of the Assembly, wrote poetry as a retreat from work and to say what could not be fully expressed in the pulpit.

Tune: ST. DENIS 11.11.11.11.
Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Cantidorth y Cwybr. 1838



CONFESSION



WE DON'T LIKE TALKING
ABOUT OUR MORTALITY. WE
PLAN TO LIVE FOREVER.
HELP US LEAN INTO A WORLD
WITHOUT US IN IT. HELP US
REDEFINE HOW WE THINK OF
SUCCESS. LESS WORLDLY
MEASURES. FOR YOUR
KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS
WORLD AND WHAT WE'VE
BEEN TAUGHT IS SUCCESS IS
OFTEN FAILURE IN YOUR
REALM. AMEN.



CHOIR SING!
SANCTUARY





SCRIPTURE

You'd better duck for: Isaiah 58:1-12
The familiar but expanded reading from
The Gospel According to Matthew 6:1-15

MESSAGE

SING!

Return to God

Congregation sings refrain



Refrain

Musical notation for the refrain, consisting of two staves of music in G major and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes.

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and
mer - cy; come seek the ten - der faith - ful - ness of God.

Verses

1. Now the time of grace has come,
the day of salvation;
come and learn now the way of our God.
2. I will take your heart of stone
and place a heart within you,
a heart of compassion and love.
3. If you break the chains of oppression,
if you set the pris'ner free;
if you share your bread with the hungry,
give protection to the lost;
give a shelter to the homeless,
clothe the naked in your midst,
then your light shall break forth like the dawn.



Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
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ASHES

Come forward in this time... We will
put ashes on your forehead as a
marking of our mortality and desire
to die to our ego and be reborn in
the ways of Christ. If you prefer
the ashes on your hand, please hold
out your hand. Or cross your arms
for a blessing





BENEDICTION

You have heard the
revolutionary words of
Jesus today...

Do good for others without
seeking praise. Pray in
private. Fast for our own
sake, not for public
piety. Put your faith in
God and not things.

For where your treasure
is, your heart will be
there also. You have been
given the heart of Christ

The Grace of God and the
Guidance of the Holy
Spirit. Thanks be to God!

You have been blessed to
be a blessing! Go! For
this service as ended.

And our service now begins. Amen!

