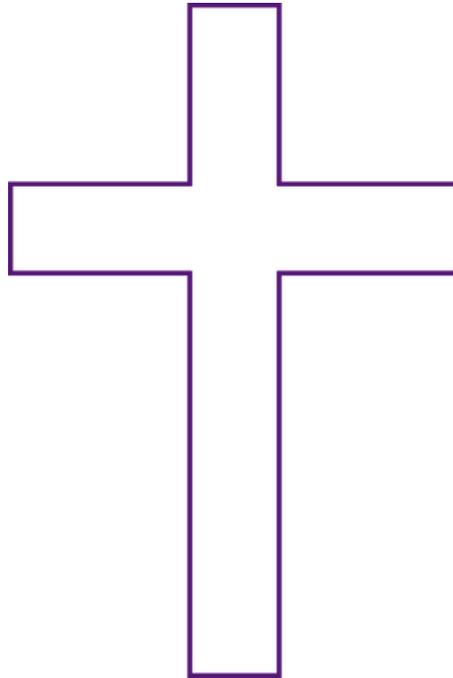


**ASH WEDNESDAY CONFESSION**  
**FEBRUARY 17, 2021**

As you prepare for a time of confession, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal a sin or sins in your life that you need to confess. Use the space on and around the cross below to write words, phrases, or sentences, or to draw an image to express your confession of sin and need for God.



Read 1 John 1:9:

*If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Write 1 John 1:9 in your own handwriting:

Pray:

*God of Compassion,  
Thank you for granting me forgiveness through your Son.  
May I obey you with a willing heart and serve others in holy love.  
Amen.*

Now, fold your confession following the shape of the cross.  
Then, tear this paper up and dispose of it,  
with gratitude for God's grace.

## ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP-AT-HOME FEBRUARY 17, 2021

### CREATION AND GRACE

As we commemorate Ash Wednesday, in humility we experience God's presence and acknowledge the frailty of our lives, the pain of our sinfulness, and the weakness of our faith. Though ashes have traditionally been used in worship to symbolize our human frailty and finiteness, the book of Genesis tells us that God formed humanity from the soil and dust of the earth. In this ritual, we will use the soil of God's creation to call us to humility and remind us of God's gift of grace.

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**Gather a small amount of soil from outdoors in a container.**

Read Genesis 2:7 (Common English Bible):

*The Lord God formed the human from the topsoil of the fertile land and blew life's breath into his nostrils. The human came to life.*

Run your fingers through the soil you have collected. Contemplate this dirt. Take time to explore and notice details: How does the soil look? How does the soil feel? What does the soil smell like?

As you contemplate the soil, pray:

Almighty God,

You have created us out of the dust of the earth.

So too did Christ Jesus come in the form of one made from dust  
in order to call us to You.

As I touch this soil, help me remember my mortality

And remind me that only by your gracious gift

Are we given everlasting life

through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Read Genesis 3:19 (NRSV):

*You are dust, to dust you will return.*

**Wash your hands. As you wash your hands, observe the dirt flowing away with the water.**

Read Psalm 51:10-19 (NRSV):

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.*

*Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.*

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit. Amen.*