

**CORPORATE CONFESSION**

Psalm 90

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

**Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

You turn people back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, you mortals."

**A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.**

Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—they are like the new grass of the morning: In the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered.

**We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.**

All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan. Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.

**If only we knew the power of your anger! Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due. Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

Relent, Lord! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants.

**Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.**

Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble. May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children.

**May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands.**

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

The ritual action of Ash Wednesday, ashes being marked on our foreheads in the sign of a cross, reminds us of our brokenness, our mortality, and our dependence on God to work new life in us and through us. Confession connects us with that work of God and the potential of new life each day.

**WHY SO HEAVY?**

**WELLS/CASWALL**

Oh why so heavy, Oh my soul?  
Thus to myself I've willed  
Oh why so heavy, Oh my heart?  
And so sorrow filled?

His goodness made thee what thou art  
And yet will he redeem  
Oh be thou of a steadfast heart  
And put your trust in him

**CHORUS**

Oh why so heavy,  
Oh my soul?

**Hope thou in God, He still shall be  
Thy Glory and thy endless praise  
His saving grace shall comfort thee  
Through everlasting days.**

Music by Clint Wells (2009) Lyrics by Edward Caswall (1873) © 2009 Clint Wells Music CCLI# 5543234

**10,000 REASONS (BLESS THE LORD)**

**REDMAN, MYRIN**

**Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul  
Worship His Holy name  
Sing like never before, O my soul  
I'll worship Your Holy name**

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger  
Your name is great and Your heart is kind  
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

**CHORUS**

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing when the evening comes

And on that day when my strength is failing  
The end draws near and my time has come  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

**CHORUS**

Written by Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin © 2011 Thankyou Music/sixsteps Music CCLI #6016351

**UPCOMING [WWW.ALLGATHER.ORG/CALENDAR](http://WWW.ALLGATHER.ORG/CALENDAR)**

**Renovare' "Less is More Devotional:** Pick up a free copy of this devotional to guide your reading and prayer till Easter.  
*The Gathering Church meets every Sunday morning at 10:30am at Creekside Elementary School.*  
[www.allgather.org](http://www.allgather.org)



“To confess your sins to God is not to tell Him anything He doesn't already know. Until you confess them, however, they are the abyss between you. When you confess them, they become the Golden Gate Bridge.”  
- Frederick Buechner

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. By the fourth century the Western church determined that the Lenten period of fasting and renewal should correspond to Christ's forty-day fast (Matt. 4:2), and, by counting forty days back from Easter (excluding Sundays, which remain "Feast" and Resurrection Celebration days), arrived at the Wednesday seven weeks before Easter. At one time Lent was primarily viewed as a period during which converts prepared for baptism on Easter Sunday, but later the season became a general time of penitence and renewal for all Christians. Thus Ash Wednesday became the day that marked the beginning of the Lenten renewal.

The aim of Ash Wednesday worship is threefold: to meditate on our mortality, sinfulness, and need of a savior; to renew our commitment to daily repentance in the Lenten season and in all of life; and to remember with confidence and gratitude that Christ has conquered death and sin. Ash Wednesday worship, then, is filled with gospel truth. It is a witness to the power and beauty of our union with Christ and to the daily dying and rising with Christ that this entails. [Excerpted from the Worship Sourcebook]

The Ashes for this afternoon were made using the palms from last Palm Sunday (April 1, 2012).

**GATHERING MUSIC – "THE VALLEY MAY BE DARK"**

**EADER**

Adam's shadow, it was casted  
How it covered all the land  
Out from Eden, it descended  
Now to land on our guilty hands

The laws of Moses, they were roaring  
In the face of sinful man  
The sacrifices, they would offer  
Could never meet its great demands

**And that valley may be dark  
Over all the Earth extended  
But the love of God is brighter  
And its hand cannot be bended  
Yes it hits, the sinner's heart**

**Turns their sorrow into laughter  
And with joy, they will dance  
Up the mount of the redeemed**

Prophets came and prophets went  
And their message was the same  
A Messiah would soon be coming  
For the wandering souls to save

**CHORUS**

One last prophet, from the deserts  
To announce the Son of God  
John would baptize with streams of Jordan  
Christ would baptize with streams of light

**CHORUS**

Written by Wesley Randolph Eader ©2012 Wesley Randolph Eader

**WELCOME**

Welcome to the Gathering Church. We are a church that is growing in doing three things well: being present to God in worship, being connected to each other in community, and being engaged in the world by serving and sharing God's love. Thank you for gathering this special afternoon to worship the Lord.

**READING:**

Joel 2:12-21

**BREATHE ON ME**

**HATCH/GRAY**

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what thou dost love,  
And do what thou wouldst do,  
And do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Till I am wholly Thine,  
Until this earthly part of me  
Glows with thy fire divine,  
Glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Until my heart is pure,  
Until my will is one with thine,  
To do and to endure,  
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
So shall I never die,  
But live with Thee the perfect life  
Of Thine eternity, of Thine eternity.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew.

Lyrics by Edwin Hatch (1878) Music by Cameron Gray (2011) © 2011 Rough Harbor Music

**READING:**

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

**UP ON A MOUNTAIN**

**AIUTO**

Up on a mountain our Lord is alone  
Without a family, friends, or a home  
He cries, "Oh, Oh, Oh  
Will you stay with me?"  
He cries, "Oh, Oh, Oh  
Will you wait with me?"

Up in the heavens our Lord prays for you  
He sent his Spirit to carry us through  
So its true that you're not alone.  
Do you know He came all the way down?  
  
So its true that you're not alone.  
Do you know He came all the way down?

Up on a mountain our LORD is afraid  
Carrying all the mistakes we have made.  
And he knew it's a long way down.  
Do you know it's a long way down?

Written by Vito Aiuto ©2008 New Jerusalem Music CCLI #14556

**READING:**

Isaiah 30:15-26

**BE STILL, MY SOUL**

**VON SCHLEGEL/SIBELIUS**

Be still, my soul:  
The Lord is on your side.  
Bear patiently the cross  
Of grief or pain;  
Leave to your God  
To order and provide;  
In every change God  
Faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul:  
Your best, your heavenly friend  
Through thorny ways  
Leads to a joyful end.

All now mysterious  
Shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul:  
The waves and winds still know  
The Christ who ruled them  
While He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul:  
The hour is hastening on  
When we shall be  
Forever with the Lord,  
When disappointment,  
Grief, and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot,  
Love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul:  
When change and tears are past,  
All safe and blessed  
We shall meet at last.

Be still, my soul:  
Your God will undertake  
To guide the future,  
As in ages past.  
Your hope, your confidence  
Let nothing shake;

Words by Katharina A. von Schlegel (1752) Music "Finlandia" by Jean Sibelius (1899) – Public Domain

**LENTEN REFLECTION:**

Pastor Mark Acuff

**GATHERING MUSIC – "HEAR MY VOICE"**

**CRAWFORD**

Hear my voice when I call  
Through the shadow  
The distance seems so long  
Hear my voice when I call  
You are the strong hold,  
A sanctuary, solid stone

In repetition still we wander  
Still turn back again  
In visions we can see the cycle end  
When with you walking, when with you dwelling in  
When with you walking, when with you dwelling in

And though darkness  
May attack the hope I know  
And waves seem sure to crash over the boat  
Still You protect, and keep this heart afloat  
Yes You protect, and keep my heart afloat

Still the days they come around  
Where old ways shake us, take us from  
The light we've known to be the truth alone

Written by Jeff Crawford ©2001 Kadasha Music/©2011 Hibner Records (ASCAP)