



What is Lent?

Lent is a forty day season of the church year that prepares our hearts for Easter. It's a season of honest reflection, where Christians slow down to reflect on our sin and our need for God's mercy and forgiveness. It is also a time where we recall the enormous price Jesus paid for our sin on the cross.

What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday is the day that marks the beginning of the Lenten journey and has a specific emphasis on repentance. The "ash" imagery reminds us of our mortality as we recall God's words to Adam shortly after he sinned, "*for dust you are, and to dust you will return*" (Genesis 3:19). It also recalls a custom found in the Bible. People would sometimes sit in sackcloth and ashes to show their deep sorrow over sin and repentance.

The Imposition of Ashes

Our service tonight will include the Imposition of Ashes. This is an ancient practice that provides a tangible way for Christians to contemplate our sin, mortality, and our need for a Savior.

Those wishing to participate will be directed by the ushers to walk toward the front of the Worship Center. The pastors will apply the ashes in the shape of a cross to your forehead, or you may offer the back of your hand if you prefer. Afterward, you will be invited to return to your seat for prayer and singing until all who want to participate have done so.

All ages and people are welcome to receive ashed. At the same time, please know that the Imposition of Ashes is entirely optional and no one needs to feel obligated to participate.