

# Sow Good News



## INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN

THE OLD STONE CHURCH OF INDEPENDENCE

*Go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words. (Jeremiah 18:2)*

---

### ASH WEDNESDAY

*February 14, 2024*



*Easter is coming, yes. But for now, we sit in the ashes  
of our broken dreams and broken hearts, knowing that God sits here with us.*

*~ Kate Bowler*

***“YOU ARE DUST AND TO THE DUST YOU WILL RETURN.”***

*Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance, sorrow, and sacrifice.  
Ashes for this service were made from the palm branches of the previous year.*

**PRELUDE**

JOE STERN

**OPENING PRAYER**

Come down to the potter’s house,  
**and there I will let you hear my words.**

**GREETING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Joel 2:1-2, 12-14*)

Blow the horn in Zion;  
give shout on my holy mountain!  
Let all the people of the land tremble,  
for the day of the HOLY ONE is coming, it is near—

**a day of darkness and no light,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness!**

**Like blackness spread out upon the mountains  
a great and powerful host comes;  
their like has never been from of old,  
nor will be again after them  
in ages to come.**

Yet even now, says the HOLY ONE,  
return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with sorrow;  
tear your hearts and not your clothing.

**Return to the HOLY ONE, your God,  
for God is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and ready to forgive.**

**HYMN**

**CHANGE MY HEART, O GOD**  
by Eddie Espinosa

GTG #695



## PSALM 51 (CONTINUED)

**Open up my lips  
and I will give you praise.**

You don't want the sacrifices  
we bring to your table.

**But if our hearts are broken, and our spirits too,  
you will not look down on us.**

We can always bring them to you.

**All: Have mercy on us, Lord,  
because your love never fails.**

## LITANY OF PENITENCE

*After each confession, the congregation may respond:*  
Holy and almighty God, **have mercy on us.**

## INSTRUMENTAL

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Those who so desire may come forward to receive an imposition of ashes as a sign of penitence not only for our individual sin, but also in recognition of our complicity in the sin of the world.*

## HYMN

## SIGN US WITH ASHES

GTG #433

Words by Mary Louise Bringle; Music by William P. Rowan

## BLESSING AND CHARGE

*All are invited to quietly exit.*