

## Participants

Reverend Catherine Merrill  
Reverend Veronica Walsh Don  
Charlene LeDoux

Minister  
Pastor  
Cellist

## *Ash Wednesday*

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the 40 day preparation for Easter. In the Bible, ashes expressed grief. Christians place (or “impose”) ashes on our foreheads as an external sign of repentance we feel for how far we have strayed from whom God is calling us to be. When the ashes are imposed, we will repeat Genesis 3:19, which God said to Adam and Eve when they were turned out of the Garden of Eden. You may respond with silence or by saying “I am dust” or “I will remember” or “Amen.”

The ashes are made from palms used during the celebration of Palm Sunday in earlier years. They will fall off naturally, although they can also be washed off at the end of the day.

The Mason and Brookline churches will worship together again on Maundy Thursday, April 13, at 7:00pm for a Tenebrae Service at the Mason church.

### *Household Prayer for Ash Wednesday Evening:*

Long after Wednesday’s ashes are wiped away, my perishable body is still perishable, O God of my salvation. I can feel it in these evening hours: the tiredness in my limbs, my eyes, my mind. Thank you for the activities that engaged me today, and for the rest that comes as the sun leaves my horizon for another shore. As I prepare to sleep, quiet my thoughts and all my strivings. Let me ponder the treasures of my heart, lifting up each one as a prayer for your safe keeping. When I awake, now and in the life to come, I am still with you. In Christ, Amen.



March 1, 2017

*Brookline Community Church*

2 Main Street, PO Box 507

Brookline, NH 03033

Reverend Catherine Merrill

603-673-7511

**March 1, 2017**

**7:00 pm**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins, aware of our frailty and our failings.

**All: We come seeking God's mercy, acknowledging our mortality.**

Leader: Having received the waters of baptism, we are marked now with ashes.

**All: The treasures of this earth do not last; our treasure is in heaven, our heart's true home.**

\* **HYMN: #339 "How Long, O Lord?"**

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21, p. 787

**ASH WEDNESDAY REFLECTION**

\* **PRAYER OF CONFESSION & PREPARATION**

Leader: Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us. We have many treasures on earth that we hold too dearly; that we withhold from others in need. When we sin against neighbor, condone injustice, and quarrel with one another, we sin against you. Forgive us, we pray, for we are broken in spirit. Do not see us for our faults, and do not go away from us. Keep us always in your presence so that we may be restored to the joy of your salvation. Sustain in us a willing spirit to treasure what you desire; then our hearts will be opened in joy and gladness.

**All: We bow our heads before you, O God, aware of our sinfulness and our shortcomings. Remembering our baptism, the watermark of the cross upon us, we also receive this ashen**

**cross upon our foreheads—another sign that in life and in death, we belong to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again, we pray.**

Leader: According to God's steadfast love, according to God's abundant mercy, God does not pass judgment on us the judgment we deserve.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

\* **HYMN: #642 "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"**

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

**COMMISSION & BLESSING**

**All: Our treasures, O Lord, come from your hand. Out of your goodness toward us we have received so much. Knowing that we came into this life with nothing, and will go out the same way, we give of the time, talents, and resources we have now. Use them, use us, as you will, for your Son's sake.**

Leader: The blessing of God, who hears when you call; the grace of Christ, who reconciles you; the power of the Holy Spirit, who sustains you; remain with you in these Lenten days.

*Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.*

**\* Please stand in body or Spirit**