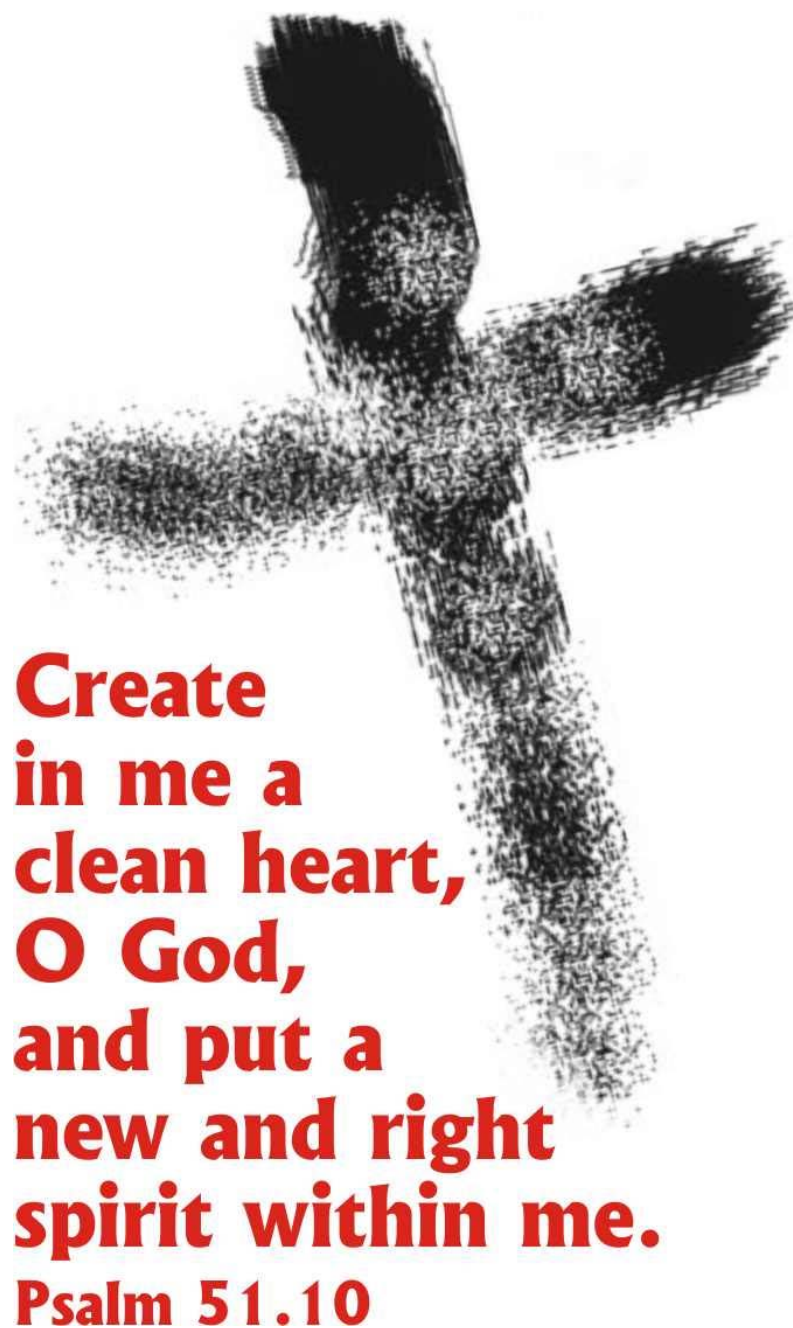


# **ASH WEDNESDAY**

**February 17, 2010**

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**Create  
in me a  
clean heart,  
O God,  
and put a  
new and right  
spirit within me.  
Psalm 51.10**

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## **BUSH HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

4916 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310  
703-971-1171

Pastor: Dr. Carl A. Rush  
Music Director/Organist: Melvin Goodwyn  
Director of Family & Adult Ministries: Jennifer Reiff

**ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR COMMUNION  
ASH WEDNESDAY**

**FEBRUARY 17, 2010**

**7:30 PM**



*The communion table and pulpit have been left bare for Ash Wednesday as a symbol of sober reflection, self-examination, and spiritual redirection during Lent.*

*Lent consists of the forty days before Easter. We do not include Sundays when we count the days of Lent, because Sunday is always a celebration of the Resurrection. The first day of Lent is forty days before Easter, not counting Sundays; therefore, Lent begins on a Wednesday.*

*Ashes are a sign of our mortality as well as penitence, contrition, and mourning. In our culture, we might wear a black armband or ribbon to signify we are in mourning. Long ago, people put ashes on their foreheads. You can find biblical examples of this in 2 Samuel 13:19, Esther 4:1–3, Job 42:6, and Jeremiah 6:26.*

*During Lent, disciples of Jesus grieve for the pain our sins create. Tonight we join believers, who over the centuries have shown their desire to live in a new way by placing ashes on their foreheads.*

PRELUDE ***Just As I Am*** David Cherwien  
*Please join in prayer and meditation during the prelude.*

\*HYMN 2138 (STF) ***Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes*** Beach Spring

A RESPONSIVE PSALM OF REPENTANCE Psalm 51:1–17.....OT, Page 520  
*The leader will read the odd-numbered verses, and  
the people, the even-numbered verses.*

READINGS FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE AND THE EPISTLES  
Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 .....OT, Page 846  
2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10 .....NT, Page 181

ANTHEM ***Lord, for Thy Tender Mercies Sake*** Richard Farrant  
Sanctuary Choir

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL  
Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21 ..... NT, Page 5

SERMON ***Being Confident without Being Pompous*** Dr. Rush

CONFESSION (Unison)

**We know, O God, all we need to do is ask, and You will forgive us. But it is so hard to ask You, or those we have wronged, for forgiveness. We want the absolution without having to admit our failures or acknowledge the harm we have caused. We want the easy way out. Help us truly repent so we might know the fullness of Your redemption.**

**We know, O God, we are also called to forgive, but forgiveness doesn't always come easily to us. We would rather harbor our anger and hurts. When we do forgive, we want it to be easy, without any cost to ourselves. Help us so that we, as ones who are forgiven, can indeed forgive others. Loving our enemies may be the most difficult task You call us to carry out. When we do, though, You open our hearts to care for those who are less fortunate, those who are victims, those who are suffering, ill or discouraged.**

**With contrite hearts, we pray with the psalmist that You would have mercy on us. O God, according to Your steadfast love, according to Your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Do not cast us away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation, and sustain in us a willing spirit. Then we will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners like us will return to You.**

**Help us live as ones redeemed, freely sharing the grace You have given us through Your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

[Psalm 130:3–4]

LEADER: The psalmist wrote: "If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, so that You may be revered."  
Friends, this is Good News of the Gospel for you and for me.

PEOPLE: **This is Good News, indeed. Thanks be to God!**

OFFERING

*God is the source of all we are and have. May our responses be guided by prayer.*

OFFERTORY

**Jesus, Lover of My Soul**

Gerald Near

OFFERTORY PRAYER

**COMMUNION LITURGY**

INVITATION AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

MINISTER: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God.

PEOPLE: **Many will come from East and West and North and South, and sit at table in the Kingdom of God.**

MINISTER: This is the Lord's Table. Our Savior ...

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

LEADER: Held in the arms of God, we pray the prayer that Jesus taught to those he called sister, brother, and friend, "**Our Father ...**"

O Lord, as we come, mark us and remind us that You give us life. You alone sustain us by Your breath and Your mercy.

SILENCE

*THE CONGREGATION COMES FORWARD FOR IMPOSITION OF ASHES AND  
THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION*

*The ashes symbolize that even though we are mortal we have hope in  
God's faithfulness which we receive through the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*

HYMN 370

**Just As I Am, Without One Plea**

Woodworth

*Let us softly sing this hymn as worshipers come forward.*

PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION

**Holy and righteous, yet approachable and forgiving God, we confess that we have attempted to earn the favor You show us in this Sacrament. We have not leaned on Your understanding nor have we acknowledged how our ways are not Your ways. We have acted selfishly in the face of great need, even in the lives of those we claim to love. We have allowed our spiritual lives to languish while abundant resources, worship experiences, and the counsel of more mature Christians are all around us.**

**We have not shown the courage to heal from the past despite Your offer of renewal. We are grateful for Your presence, Your hope, Your forgiveness, and Your love in this sacrament of communion. We are grateful that You do not require us to be worthy to receive these elements but reach out in grace through the bread and cup. Enable us to both receive these gifts in humility and with a passion to grow. Amen.**

\*HYMN 2167 (STF)

**More Like You**

*More Like You*

CHARGE AND BLESSING

*Please be seated for the postlude.*

POSTLUDE

**God, the Father, Be Our Stay**

D. Buxtehude

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**\*PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE**

*The communion table and pulpit have been left bare for the Ash Wednesday service as a symbolic reminder of penitence and reflection. So as the winter leaves the land desolate and spring brings the hope of new growth, the season of Lent takes us on the Christian journey from inward searching to the glorious celebration of the Resurrection.*