

A 2020 Ash Wednesday Resource

This year, as we prepare to enter into the season of Lent, we recognise that many in our communities, have suffered hardship and loss in recent times, and for many that comes on top of a significant time of hardship.

We are inspired by the care and response offered by so many in compassion, Giving so much, even their lives, in the service of others.

In fact, the struggles continue here in Australia, but also in communities across the world who continue to not only face the challenges of chronic issues such as poverty and conflict, but we have also faced significant health challenges as well.

Lent is a time to re-centre ourselves in faith and discipleship as we prepare to honour and celebrate the love God brought to its fullness in the culmination of the life of Jesus in his death and resurrection which we call Easter.

A Call To Worship

God,

Present with us in all things,

In all places,

In all circumstances,

Standing with us as Christ,

Guiding and leading and comforting us as Spirit,

We acknowledge that you are with us here, now.

Thank you for your goodness.

Thank you for your compassion.

Thank you that you are at work for good in the world.

We give you praise,

For you are the one we place our faith in to lead us in life.

We look to you as our God and confess that we are your people.

We love you with our heart, mind, strength and soul,

Today we stand at the threshold the Season of Lent,

God,

Present with us in all things,

In all places,

In all circumstances,

Standing with us as Christ,

Guiding and leading and comforting us as Spirit,

May we step out in faith,

And take up the work of the season,

That we might learn anew how to love and serve others,

Especially in the shadow of this year's hardships.

This we therefore pray.

Amen.

A 2020 Lenten Litany

God,
With us as Christ,
Present as Spirit,
In times of drought

Be with us

In the flames

Be with us

In the ashes

Be with us

In our struggles

Be with us

In times of recovery

Be with us

In times of replenishment

Be with us

In healing

Be with us

In hope

Be with us

In faith

Be with us

In our service

Be with us

In our flaws and failings

Be with us

We are the stuff of the stars

And the work of your creation

From the ash of the beginning of universe you raised us

And in the fullness of time ash we will return to.

Be with us, God.

As we mark ourselves today,
With the sign of the cross made in ash,
We remember your call to love.

We re-centre ourselves in your call to discipleship.

Be with us, God,

As we commit ourselves today,
With the sign of the cross in made in ash,
We look to take up our cross anew,
And enter into reflection on the depth of you love for us,
The teaching you brought as the Word as Christ,
The witness and example of Jesus to your nature,
And the grace and redemption you reveal in your cross and resurrection.

Be with us God

Lead us anew in your way,
Away from sin and sadness,
Into the joy of discipleship,
That we might come to know you deeper
And follow you more closely as your people.

Be with us God, We pray. Amen

Prayer of the People

Christ,
God with us,
This year has raised so many challenges already,
and we are just at the start.
So many have faced struggles and suffering.
Even, those who have watched as onlookers,
Have felt the effect of such devastation.
For all those who are dealing with loss

We pray

For all those who are facing uncertainty,

We pray

For all who are finding it hard to find hope

We pray

For those who are embarking on long journeys of recovery

We pray

For all who need healing

We pray

For all those who need support

We pray

Christ,

God with us,

Awaken our compassion,

That our prayer stays not just on our lips

That it just doesn't just lie in our hearts

But that we might take up the Lenten discipline of love

And seek to follow you in love into the world,

Discipling others not only in word,

But also witnessing to you in care and service.

May we be agents of your mission

Joining you in your work

As we wear the sign of your cross on our foreheads,

And seek to follow in your way.

In faith we pray,

Amen.