

## The Episcopalian..

We are followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe in amendment of life, the forgiveness of sin, and life everlasting.

We celebrate our unity in Christ while honoring our differences, always putting the work of love before uniformity of opinion.

Holy Communion may be received by all baptized Christians, not only members of the Episcopal Church.

We strive to love our neighbors as ourselves and respect the dignity of every person.

All are welcome to find a spiritual home in the Episcopal Church.

God of hope, help us who struggle in our daily work.

When we lose our purpose,  
**renew our hope in you.**

When we bow to hatred,  
**renew our trust in you.**

When we despair of bliss,  
**renew our joy in you.**

When we take offense at others,  
**renew our life in you.**

When we compromise our values,  
**renew our faith in you.**

When we cherish regrets,  
**renew our freedom in you.**

When we surrender to despair,  
**renew our hope in you.**

As we accept your renewing love, we offer our prayers to you: Hold us, and all people, in your loving care, **and may we be hope for others.** Amen

Daily prayer for all seasons  
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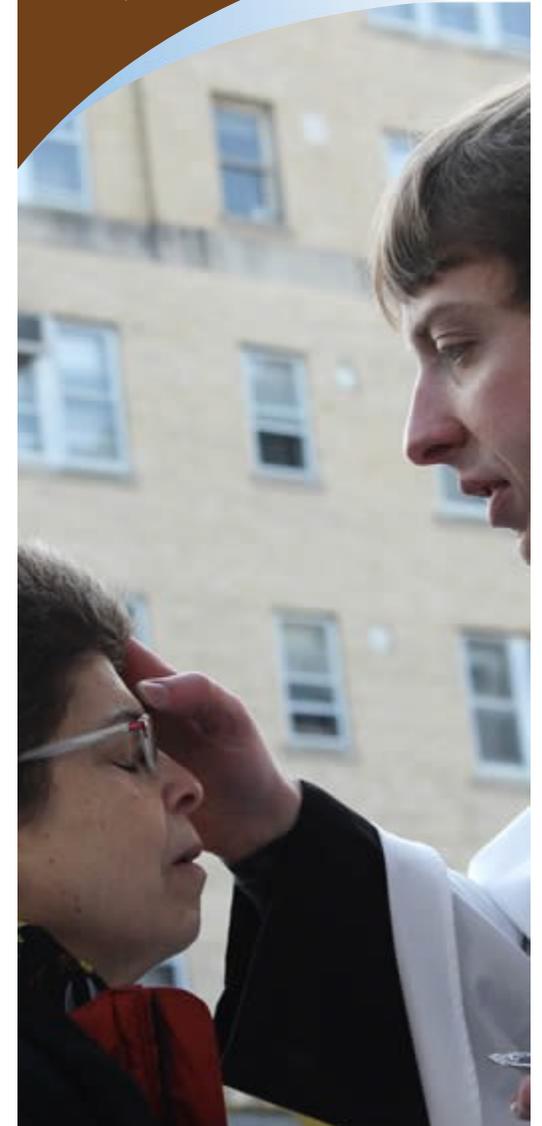
THE  
*Episcopal*  
CHURCH



Ash Wednesday



**Ashes  
To Go**





## Ash Wednesday

The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.



## Why « Ashes to Go »?

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence. From the Middle Ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The reminder that we are dust turns our attention to the creative power of God, and God's ability to heal the brokenness in our lives when we offer that brokenness to God. That turning to God is the work of Lent, preparation for the celebration of Easter.

We're offering ashes on the street today because that reminder of need, humility, and healing shouldn't be confined to a church building. We probably need it more when we are in the middle of our daily business! The ashes we receive here are to remind us throughout the day of our need for God, and of God's call to us.



There is much more to the beginning of Lent than ashes alone, and we encourage you to make time for worship with a community of faith, for the support of others and of the great traditions of faith in our work of repentance and renewal. But God meets us not just in worship, but in the midst of life, and we offer the opportunity to remember our faith to those whose schedules make it hard to stop and pray with others today.

**God loves everyone.**

**No exceptions.**

**The Episcopal Church  
Welcomes You.**