



**RIDGE ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**2011 RIDGE ROAD**  
**RALEIGH, NC 27607**  
**RRBCH.COM**

**February 17, 2021**

**Welcome and Explanation**

Dr. Steve Sumerel

**Call to Worship**

*Spirit of the Living God*

IVERSON

**Invocation and Lord's Prayer**

Mr. Glenn Harder

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

**Music**

*Just As I Am*

TABERNACLE

**Opening Litany**

Ms. Amy Kemp

Most holy and merciful God: we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Too often, we have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness; our pride, our hypocrisy, and the impatience of our lives.

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger, our envy, our love of worldly goods, our dishonesty, our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to bear witness to others the faith that is in us,

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done.

**Accept our repentance, Lord. Restore us, O Lord, for your mercy is great.**

**Music**

*Grace Greater than Our Sin*

MOODY

**Scripture Lesson**

*Psalm 51*

Dr. Steve Jolly

**Meditation**

*Maturing to Childhood*

Dr. Sumerel

**Music**

*Here I Am To Worship*

Arr. By Bryce Inman

**Evening Prayer**

Ms. Rhonda Thomas

**Imposition of Ashes**

Dr. Sumerel

We begin our Lenten observance by using the centuries-old symbol of ashes. By this we are reminded of our own frailty and mortality, and by this we are called to humility and penitence.

**Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be to us a sign of our mortality, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life. Amen.**

**Music**

*More Love to Thee, O Christ*

Prentiss & Doane

**Benediction**

Dr. Sumerel

## The Tradition of Ashes and Oil

The tradition of wearing ashes may be traced through many parts of the Bible. The Scriptures describe ashes, often accompanied by wearing sackcloth or fasting, as an outward display of grief, penitence, or remorse. For a few examples take note of Mordecai in Esther 3:12-4:2, Job in Job 42:1-6, and Tamar in 2 Samuel 13:11-19. Furthermore, many of the Prophets adjure listeners to act out their remorse for sin by wearing ashes and fasting. When Jonah preaches repentance to the people of Nineveh, Jonah 3:6 describes the grieved king wearing sackcloth and ashes to display his sorrow for the sins of his people. In the New Testament, the Gospels present ashes as a well-known and accepted symbol of repentance in Jesus' culture. In Luke 10:13-16 and Matthew 11:20-24, Jesus uses the phrase "sackcloth and ashes" to illuminate the depth of penitence about which he teaches.

During this worship service, you will be invited to receive on your forehead or hand the sign of the cross, made from the ashes of our sins that have burned away by God's costly, forgiving grace. The ashes are an ancient symbol of our human frailty and our mortality that contrast God's greatness and power: "I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes" (Gen. 18:27, KJV). But the ashes tonight are mixed with oil, which is a Biblical symbol of healing and divine calling. Oil was poured on wounds to heal them and onto the heads of people God was calling into lives of service. The mixing of oil and ashes is a reminder that God often goes to work most powerfully in those places where we *need* healing, forgiveness and release. Even as a people wounded by our sins and the sins of others, we are anointed to minister and serve by God's grace working in our lives.



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