

RIDGE ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH
at the Ridge

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5, 2025



2011 Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607
Church: (919) -787-4423
Dial-a-Prayer: (919) -787-8823

*Hearing assistance devices
available from usher*

*Services are available on
YouTube*

-- Enter in silence --

WELCOME & EXPLANATION

Trey Davis

***CALL to WORSHIP #220**

Tell Me the Story of Jesus
Claudia Hinson, piano

STORY OF JESUS

Fasting alone in the desert, tell of the days that are past;
How for our sins He was tempted, yet was triumphant at last.
Tell of the years of His labor, tell of the sorrow he bore;
He was despised and afflicted, homeless, rejected, and poor.
Tell me the story of Jesus, write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious, sweetest that ever was heard.

***INVOCATION & LORD'S PRAYER**

Jill Knight

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.

A TIME of CONFESSION

Trey Davis

SCRIPTURE READING: Job 42:1-6

LITANY of CONFESSION: by Peter Nott (adapted)¹

O Lord, open our minds to see ourselves as you see us,
And from all unwillingness to know our weakness and our sin,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From selfishness;

From wishing to be the center of attraction;

From the desire to have our own way in all things;

From unwillingness to listen to others;

From resentment of criticism,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From love of power; from jealousy;

From taking pleasure in the weakness of others,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From possessiveness about material things and people;

From carelessness about the needs of others;

From selfish use of time and money;

From all lack of generosity,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From hatred and anger;

From lack of sensitivity and division in our community;

¹ Peter Nott, "A Litany of Confession," *The Value of Sparrows*, <https://thevalueofsparrows.wordpress.com/2014/09/08/prayer-a-litany-of-confession-by-peter-nott/>

From all failure to love and to forgive,
Good Lord, deliver us.
We come before you humbled by our humanity.
Open our minds, God, and deliver us
From the brokenness we have created in our hearts, our communities, our world,
Amen.

SILENCE

PRAYER of CONFESSION

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Turn to the Living God
Lori True

The Ridge Road Choir

A CALL to PERSEVERE

Teresa Wheeler

SCRIPTURE READING: Philippians 3:7-14

LITANY of PERSEVERENCE: from "Ash Wednesday," by TS Eliot²

This is the time of tension between dying and birth
The place of solitude where three dreams cross
Between blue rocks

**But when the voices shaken from the yew-tree drift away
Let the other yew be shaken and reply.**

Blessèd sister, holy mother, spirit of the fountain, spirit of the garden,
Suffer us not to mock ourselves with falsehood
Teach us to care and not to care

Teach us to sit still

Even among these rocks,

Our peace in His will

And even among these rocks

Sister, mother

And spirit of the river, spirit of the sea,

Suffer me not to be separated

And let my cry come unto Thee.

Amen.

SILENCE

PRAYER for PERSEVERANCE

***HYMN (insert)**

I Take the Cross of Jesus Christ

KINGSFOLD

A PLEA for MERCY

Steve Sumerel

SCRIPTURE READING: Joel 2:12-17

LITANY of MERCY: The Prayer of St. Faustina³

² TS Eliott, "Ash Wednesday," 1930. https://englishverse.com/poems/ash_wednesday

³ "Litany of Mercy," *Catholic Relief Services*. <https://www.crs.org/resource-center/litany-mercy>

Holy Redeemer,

Help me seek your mercy:

For I am a sinner.

I have turned too often from my Father

And scorned my sisters and brothers.

Help me trust in your mercy:

To know that the God whose image and likeness I bear

Though I have wandered far in darkness

Has prepared a place for me in his holy light.

Help me to show mercy:

For in blessing me with this holy gift, you have made me a disciple

To share the message of your abundant clemency

In my words, in my prayers and in my works

Blessing those you have bid me to share my time with

That my heart may reflect the radiant compassion of your own.

Mercy is among the greatest attribute of Gods.

May it too be my greatest attribute.

Amen.

SILENCE

PRAYER for MERCY

ASSURANCE of PARDON

Jill Knight

IMPOSITION of ASHES

Trey Davis & Jill Knight

***HYMN (#423)**

I Need Thee Every Hour

NEED

***BENEDICTION**

Jill Knight

-- *Depart in silence* -

**Please stand as you are able.*

The Tradition of Ashes and Oil

The tradition of wearing ashes is traced through many parts of the Bible. Scripture describes ashes as an outward display of grief, penitence, or remorse. 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.

The ashes tonight are mixed with oil, which is a Biblical symbol of healing and divine calling. The mixing of oil and ashes is a reminder that God often goes to work most powerfully 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.