



*Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.*

## **Forgiveness and New Life**

We renounce the burdens of idolatry, violence, and selfishness.

## **The Ashes of Forgiveness**

Pastor: Ashes are a symbol of purification. As a fire burns, it can separate what is valuable from what is valueless, just as an assayer's fire can separate a base metal from one that is precious. In this same way, these ashes are pure. They are a symbol of the new space that is now present within us for a new life. Let us claim the new life Jesus offers us by praying to God:

**People: God of love and mercy, we come to you in prayer, seeking to change our hearts and minds. We confess the baggage of idols, bitterness, and self-concern that we so often drag along with us; struggling under its weight all the while we attempt to follow Christ. Cleanse us from our attachment to these old things. Burn away their power in us and purify our hearts. In place of old ways fill us with the new fire of your Holy Spirit. Open up new opportunities for us to follow Jesus in loving you and our neighbors. In Jesus' name we ask these things. Amen.**

Pastor: Friends, receive the good news of our faith, for in the name of Jesus, I announce our sins are forgiven. The old has died. Behold, the new has come!

## **The Imposition of Ashes**

### **Benediction**

#### **Ash Wednesday Readers:**

Kim Clark; Lexi Harris; Schuyler McGinnis;  
Jessica Morris; Larry Moore; Lisa Smith