

## Ash Wednesday 2022

### Song

#### Bless The Lord (Taizé)

**All sing:** Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name  
Bless the Lord my soul, who leads me into life.

### Opening Prayer

#### Let us pray,

Grant, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting  
this campaign of Christian service,  
so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils,  
we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity  
of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Reading

#### Mt 4:1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be  
tempted by the devil.

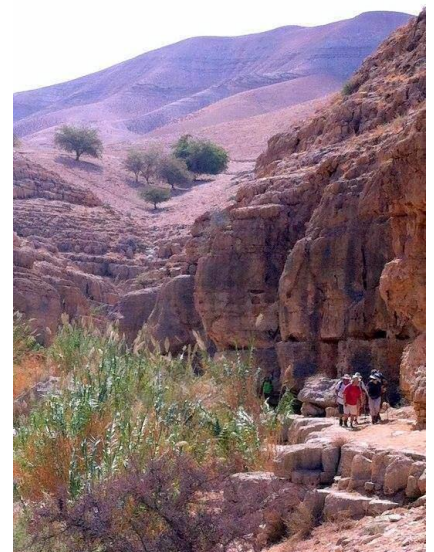
Taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him  
all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give  
you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.'  
Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

*You must worship the Lord your God,  
and serve him alone.'*

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

### Prayer

**All say:** I let go of my desire for power and control.  
I let go of my desire for affection, esteem,  
approval and pleasure.  
I let go of my desire for survival and security.  
I let go of my desire to change any situation,  
condition, person or myself.  
I open to the love and presence of God and  
God's action within. Amen.



## Blessing and Distribution of Ashes

### Reading

John 14: 27

Peace I bequeath to you,  
My own peace I give you,  
A peace the world cannot give,  
this is my gift to you.

### Prayer

**All say:**

**Let us pray,**

God of love and tenderness,  
Help us to be patient as we build pathways for peace  
Give us the grace to love others unconditionally  
Inspire us to see with our hearts.  
Let your light shine on all those who have died as a result of war  
or terrorism especially in Ukraine.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Reflection

**Peace Bringer – Joyce Rupp**

Not all wars consist of armoured soldiers.  
Many take place within feuding individuals  
Where jealousy, anger, and hatred exist.  
Peace Bringer, come to all hearts at war.  
Move them to lay down their weapons,  
To cast aside bitterness and resentment.  
Bring your peace to hard-hearted ones.  
Lessen the grip of those who desire revenge.  
May your peace release whatever binds  
And free all those held captive by hostility.

### Resolution

Make us instruments of Your peace  
Where there is hatred, let Your love increase Lord,  
make us instruments of Your peace,  
Walls of pride and prejudice shall cease  
When we are Your instruments of peace  
Where there is hatred, we will show His love  
Where there is injury, we will never judge  
Where there is striving, we will speak His peace  
To the millions crying for release  
We will be God's instruments of peace  
Where there is blindness, we will pray for sight  
Where there is darkness, we will shine His light  
Where there is sadness, we will bear their grief  
To the millions crying for relief  
We will be Your instruments of peace.