



DIOCESE OF ABERDEEN & ORKNEY

# FROM ASHES TO FIRE: A JOURNEY FROM LENT TO PENTECOST

Thursday 6th March 2025

## Words from Others and Resources from the Arts

In these days between Ash Wednesday and the First Sunday of Lent we will explore words from others and resources from the arts today (Thursday), contemplative practices (Friday) and acts of service (Saturday) around the theme of Repentance and Reflection.

As you reflect on these quotes, poetry, images and music what do they make you think about the theme of repentance and reflection?



*"Ash Wednesday is full of joy...  
The sources of all sorrow is the  
illusion that of ourselves we are  
anything but dust."*

— Thomas Merton

*"There are three elements that  
are almost always part of Lent:  
prayer, giving something up,  
and giving something back."*

— Elizabeth Hyndman.

*Almighty God, you have  
compassion on all your children,  
and hate nothing you have  
made; you do not desire the  
death of sinners, but that they  
turn from their ways and live.*

*May these ashes be for us,  
who are redeemed through the  
cross of Christ, a sign of our  
death to sin, and the pledge of  
our life in Christ; who lives and  
reigns for ever and ever. Amen.*

— Scottish Episcopal Church  
Ash Wednesday Liturgy

## Marked by Ashes by Walter Brueggemann (b. 1933)

Ruler of the Night, Guarantor of the day . .

This day — a gift from you.

This day — like none other you have ever given, or we have ever received.

This Wednesday dazzles us with gift and newness and possibility.

This Wednesday burdens us with the tasks of the day, for we are already halfway home

halfway back to committees and memos,  
halfway back to calls and appointments,  
halfway on to next Sunday,  
halfway back, half frazzled, half expectant,  
half turned toward you, half rather not.

This Wednesday is a long way from Ash Wednesday,

but all our Wednesdays are marked by ashes —

we begin this day with that taste of ash in our mouth:

of failed hope and broken promises,

of forgotten children and frightened women,

we ourselves are ashes to ashes, dust to dust;

we can taste our mortality as we roll the ash around on our tongues.

We are able to ponder our ashness with

some confidence, only because our every Wednesday of ashes

anticipates your Easter victory over that dry, flaky taste of death.

On this Wednesday, we submit our ashen way to you —  
you Easter parade of newness.

Before the sun sets, take our Wednesday and Easter us,

Easter us to joy and energy and courage and freedom;

Easter us that we may be fearless for your truth.

Come here and Easter our Wednesday with

mercy and justice and peace and generosity.

We pray as we wait for the Risen One who comes soon.

*Taken from Prayers for a Privileged People (Nashville: Abingdon, 2008),*





*Anna E. Blunden (1854) "For Only One Short Hour"/"The Song of the Shirt",  
Oil on Canvas, Yale Center for British Art.*

This image is of a woman praying and is known by two titles - one about her actions in this moment - praying 'just for one hour' and the object on the table. the shirt. The woman has stopped work as is praying, what do you notice about the image? What does it say to you about the place of prayer in your life and in this Lent?