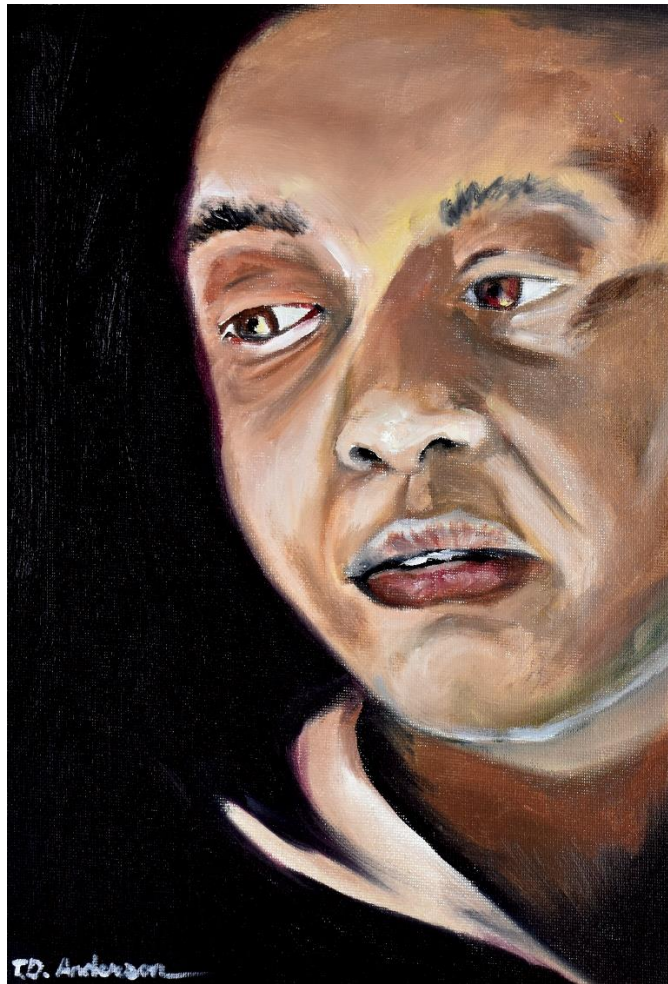


NORTH PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ash Wednesday
February 22, 2023



"Don't Look Up" by T. Denise Anderson
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

– Ann Weems, *The Walk*

Those of us who walk along this road do so reluctantly.
Lent is not our favorite time of year.
We'd rather be more active – planning and scurrying around.
All this is too contemplative to suit us.
Besides we don't know what to do with piousness and prayer.
Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think, for thoughts come unbidden.
Perhaps we're afraid to face our future knowing our past.
Give us the courage, O God, to hear your word and to read our living into it.
Give us the trust to know we're forgiven,
and give us the faith to take up our lives and walk.

WELCOME

Rev. Nicole Bates, Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather together at the edge of a new season.
All: We stand together on the cusp of something new.
One: Will we wade into self-reflection?
All: Will we invite honesty to the dance?
One: Will we listen for God's invitation?
All: Will we seek deeper faith?
One: What kind of fast do we choose? What kind of faith will we build?
All: We gather together at the edge of a new season.
One: Listen, God is speaking.

✠HYMN 168 Within Your Shelter, Loving God

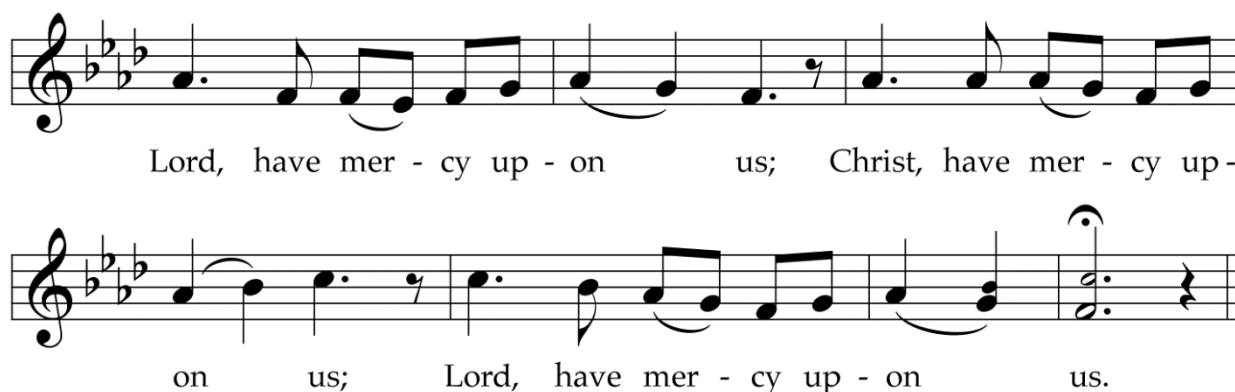
ABBAY

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION (together)

Merciful God,
How many times in a day could we choose love?
How many times could we choose justice?
How many times could we speak kindly to ourselves?
How many times could we offer grace?
How many times, God? And how often do we miss it?
Forgive us for choosing the path you did not travel.
Forgive us for measuring our lives by the world's idea of goodness.
Return our hearts to you, and guide us continually, even in the parched places.
With gratitude we pray. Amen.

✠RESPONSE Lord, Have Mercy upon Us

KYRIE ELEISON



✠Please rise as you are able.

✠PROMISE OF GRACE

One: No matter how many times we fall,
no matter how many times we choose the wrong path,
God is waiting for us at the end with open arms.

All: **We are forgiven. We are invited. We belong.**
Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

MEDITATION Seeking: Is This the Fast I Choose?

✠HYMN 773 Heaven Shall Not Wait

HEAVEN SHALL NOT WAIT

✠AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (together)

We believe in a God who chooses freedom,
who unties every rope and carries our burdens.
We believe in a God who ushers in the poor and the hungry,
who has a seat saved for all of us.
We believe in a God who walks before us in the parched places,
who rescues our bones, who tends to us like a gardener.
And because we believe, we strive to choose love.
Because we believe, we strive to pursue justice.
Amen.

✠IMPOSITION OF ASHES

You are invited to come forward by the middle aisle, return by the side aisles.

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

DEPART IN SILENCE

A special thanks to Liturgist Anne Thomas and the Usher and AV Teams. Tonight's hymns are used with permission. CCLI License #20085484. ONE LICENSE, License #A-739368.

On behalf of NorthPark Presbyterian Church, welcome this Ash Wednesday.
While even our littlest ones are welcome in worship, childcare is available.
Please ask an Usher to show you the way.

Tonight we will depart in silence. Sunday mornings, we do not.
Services are warm and family-friendly, traditional in style but casual in feel.
Please join us Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

NorthPark Presbyterian Church

9555 N. Central Expressway, Dallas, TX 75231 · 214.363.5457

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