



**ASH WEDNESDAY REFLECTION**  
**GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ASHEVILLE, NC**  
**Wednesday, March 2, 2022**  
The Rev. Dr. Marcia W. Mount Shoop, Pastor

From dust you came. To dust you shall return.

You are made of molecules that grow grass and tomato plants.

You are compostable and biodegradable.

You are partless particles floating in outer space.

You are molten lava gurgling in the depths of planets we don't know.

Your dustiness means you belong. It is the calling card of sentience and dividing cells.

You are never not dust. A double negative or one big positive.

This is who we are no matter how much we dress it up with new costumes, and masks.

Dust is dust. And it scatters and floats and settles and moves again as the wind blows and gravity dictates.

The Good News is that dust is what makes this world colorful and musical and surprising and beautiful. Dust gives us a chance to celebrate birthdays and promises and moments that elevate our shared imagination.

Lent invites our attention to dust- its divinity, its mortality, its eternity, its possibility, its reality.

Lent is about belonging to a dusty world and longing for this dust to settle in meaningful, life-giving, peace-finding ways.

Make the most of your dustiness this Lent, siblings. Even a minute fleeting of your awareness, your gentleness, your breath, your tender presence gives all this dustiness a shimmer that remembers God chose dustiness, too.

Thanks be to God.

Invite imposition here and at home