



Ash Wednesday

ASHING SERVICE

Weston-super-Mare High Street
Wednesday 18 February 2026 - 12 Noon

www.loveston.org.uk part of



CHURCHES
TOGETHER
Weston-super-Mare & District



Return to the Lord From Ashes to New Life

Welcome to the Love Weston Ash Wednesday service. Today we receive ashes as a sign of repentance, reflection, and hope, turning to God, seeking forgiveness, and beginning the journey of Lent together.

Rev Craig Philbrick – President

Rev Steve Kempton – Vice President

Love Weston / Churches Together Weston & District

1. Welcome & Opening Sentences

Leader:

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Brief welcome and explanation of Ash Wednesday.

Opening Scripture:

“Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate.” (Joel 2:13)

Short opening prayer for the town - Sue Cannock

2. Hymn: Amazing Grace (traditional)

VERSE 1

Amazing Grace - How sweet the sound -
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

VERSE 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

VERSE 3

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

VERSE 4

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

By John Newton, 1779

3. Bible Readings - April Brown

Joel 2:12–13 'Rend your Heart'

“Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for

he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.”

Psalm 51:1–4 ‘Lord have Mercy’

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.”

Matthew 6:19–21

““When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Readers conclude: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

4. Short Reflection - Rev Craig Philbrick

5. Responsive Prayers of Penitence

Leader: Lord, we return to you.

All: Receive us and forgive us.

Leader: For our failure to love others.

All: Receive us and forgive us.

Leader: For our neglect of prayer and holiness.

All: Receive us and forgive us.

Leader: For the brokenness of our world and our town.

All: Receive us and heal us.

Short silence.

6. Imposition of Ashes

Leader blesses ashes:

God our Father, bless these ashes. May they be a sign of our turning to you and of your mercy. Amen.

(Congregants come forward for ashing)

7. My Story - Rev Steve Kempton

8. Hymn: Just As I Am (Traditional)

VERSE 1

Just as I am, without one plea
but that Thy blood was shed for me,
and that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

VERSE 2

Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

VERSE 3

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

VERSE 4

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

VERSE 5

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

VERSE 6

Just as I am, Thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

By Charlotte Elliott

9. The 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen."

10. Final Blessing & Dismissal - Rev Peter Ashman

May God give you grace to grow in holiness,
to walk in repentance and faith,
and to know the joy of new life in Christ;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

After the service, the clergy present will offer to 'Ash crosses' for passers by.

About Us

Today's event was organised by **Love Weston** - part of Churches Together in Weston & District - a local association of Churches, affiliated to Churches Together in England - registered charity No 1110782.

For more info about **Love Weston**, to join the team or find out about representing your church, please visit www.loveston.org.uk or email president@ctwd.org.uk

Thanks! – to everyone for joining us today as we have shared in these Ash Wednesday reflections.

Special thanks to Rev Craig Philbrick, Rev Steve Kempton, Rev Peter Ashman, Sue Cannock, April Brown, Malcolm Bowen, Hayden Taylor, our stewards, North Somerset Council, and all those who helped to make this event happen.

More info about Ash Wednesday:

