

TRUMPET CALL

WELCOME TO THE UPTOWN CHURCH!

PSALM 47:5-7

God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
For God is the King of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check your bulletin for more information.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

A pastoral prayer of adoration, thanksgiving, and illumination.

Psalm 67:1-2, 105:4

PASSING THE PEACE

Unity & Reconciliation

*Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:11-12;
1 Thessalonians 5:26; 1 Peter 5:14; Matthew 5:23-24, 18:15*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Corporate prayer of our covenantal commitment with our Heavenly Father through the Son of God, which encourages the confession of sin together.

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

Our Father,
who is in heaven,
holy is Your Name.
Your kingdom come,
Your 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 Yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
forever and ever.

Amen.



READING OF SACRED SCRIPTURE

The Ascension of Christ

Luke 24:44-49,52-53; Acts 1:4-11

LUKE 24:44-46

Then He [Jesus] said to them, “These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead



LUKE 24:47-49

and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”



ACTS 1:4-5

And while staying with them He ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”



ACTS 1:6-8

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”



ACTS 1:9-11

And when He had said these things, as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.”



LUKE 24:52-53

And they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.



PSALMS, HYMNS & SPIRITUAL SONGS

Worshipping and praising the Lord in song together.

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Mystery of Godliness

1 Timothy 3:14-16, 4:9-11

PASTOR

I write to you so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:



MEN

God was manifested in the flesh,

WOMEN

Justified in the Spirit,



MEN

Seen by angels,

WOMEN

Proclaimed among the nations,



MEN

Believed on in the world,

WOMEN

Received up in glory.



PASTOR

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.



PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Pastoral & Congregational Prayer

Isaiah 58:10-11

ISAIAH 58:10

if you pour yourself out for the hungry
and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,
then shall your light rise in the darkness
and your gloom be as the noonday.



ISAIAH 58:11

And the Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your desire in scorched places
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters do not fail.













LIGHTHOUSE

- Serves **warm, home-cooked lunches** five days a week to those in need (~25-40 hot meals daily) — *the only service like this in the community*
- Provides **take-out meals** to individuals who are homebound, hospitalized, or shut-in
- Place of **refuge** during the colder months
- A **safe and welcoming environment** where individuals can gather in fellowship, build meaningful relationships, and grow in grace, love, and mutual respect in Christ
- **Supported primarily through the faithful giving of our congregation**
- **Generous food donations by other local churches and businesses** in the community





The Lord will
guide you always

Jesus
LOVES
YOU

YOU
I have loved

2/1/16
May you be
blessed by
the LORD,
who made
heaven
and
earth
- Psalm 115:15

you are
BEAUTIFUL

Church, we need your help!



Financial support



Food donations



**Cooks and food
coordination**



PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Pastoral & Congregational Prayer

The Lighthouse

BLESSING & DISMISSAL OF THE CHILDREN

Call children to the altar for prayer and blessing.

Matthew 18:1-14, 19:13-14

PSALMS, HYMNS & SPIRITUAL SONGS

Worshipping and praising the Lord in song together.

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

DECLARATION OF THE LAW

The Greatest Commandment with a supplementary passage.

*Mark 12.29-31; Matthew 22:35-40; Luke 10:25-28;
John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:7-8,21; Romans 13:9-10; Galatians 5:14; Matthew 7:12
Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Leviticus 19:18*

‘Hear, O Israel!

The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

And you shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind, and with all your
strength.’



This is the first and great commandment.
And the second is like it:
‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’
On these two commandments hang all
the Law and the Prophets.



And this is His commandment:
that we believe in the name of His Son
Jesus Christ and love one another, just as
He has commanded us.

Whoever keeps His commandments
abides in God, and God in him.



And by this we know that He abides in us,
by the Spirit whom He has given us.

For the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,
peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Against such things there is no law.

1 John 3:24; Galatians 5:22-23





DUST & ASHES

On the necessity of repentance for new life.

REPENTANCE

What does it mean to repent?

- Repentance means “to return” or “to turn back”.
- It is a fundamental change of mind, heart, direction and action—turning away from sin toward God.
- Repentance also means, “regret, sorrow, or relenting,” but true repentance requires character change
- **True repentance** = inward + outward = sorry + stop + turn



REPENTANCE

- **2 Chronicles 7:14** — If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.
- **Ezekiel 18:30** — “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin...”



REPENTANCE

- **Matthew 3:1-2** — In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
- **Matthew 4:17** — From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
- **Acts 2:38** — And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.



REPENTANCE

- **Acts 3:19-21** — “Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.”



REPENTANCE

- **Acts 17:30-31** — “The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”



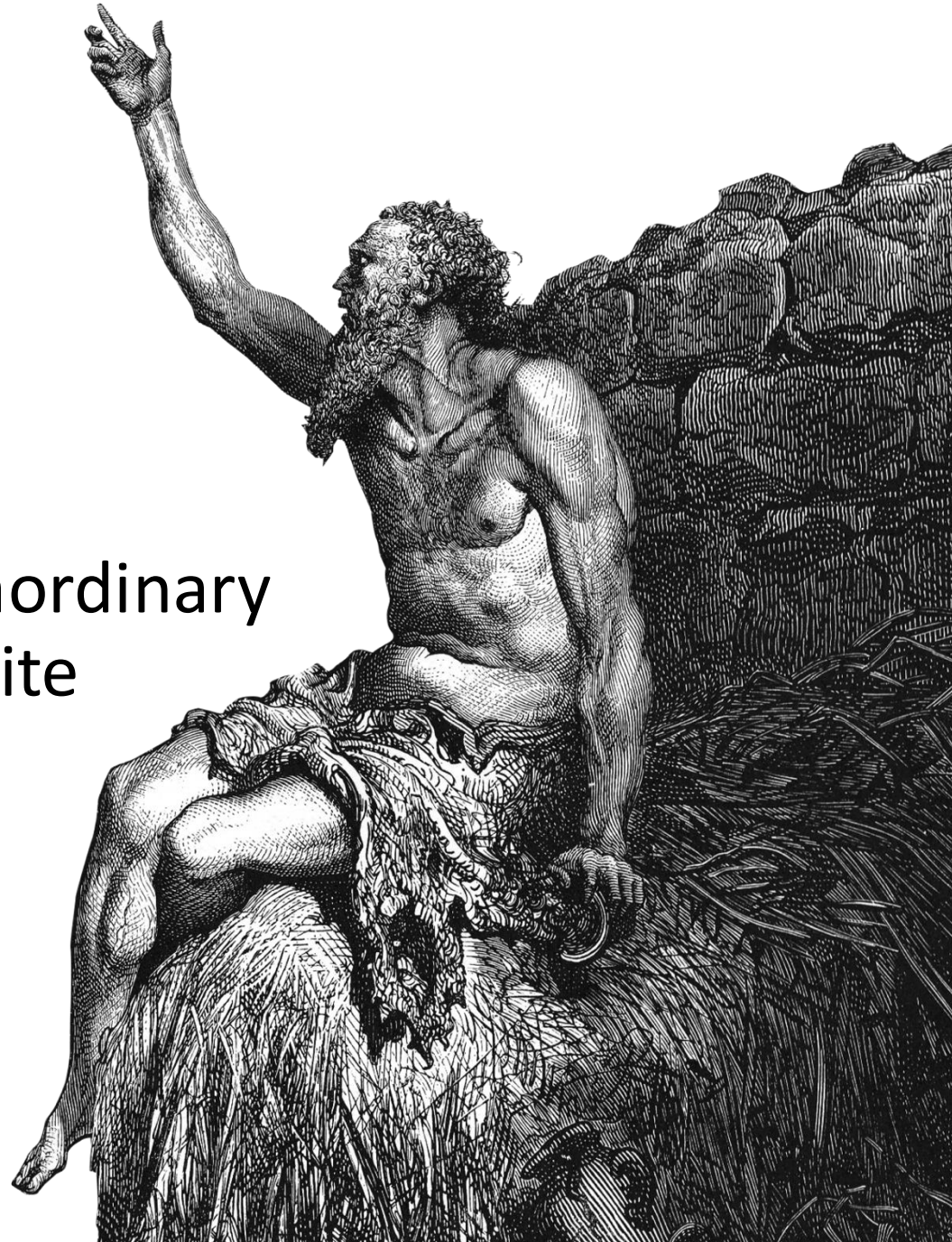
JOEL 2:12-13

“Yet even now,” declares the Lord,
“return to Me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
Return to the Lord your God,
for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and He relents over disaster.



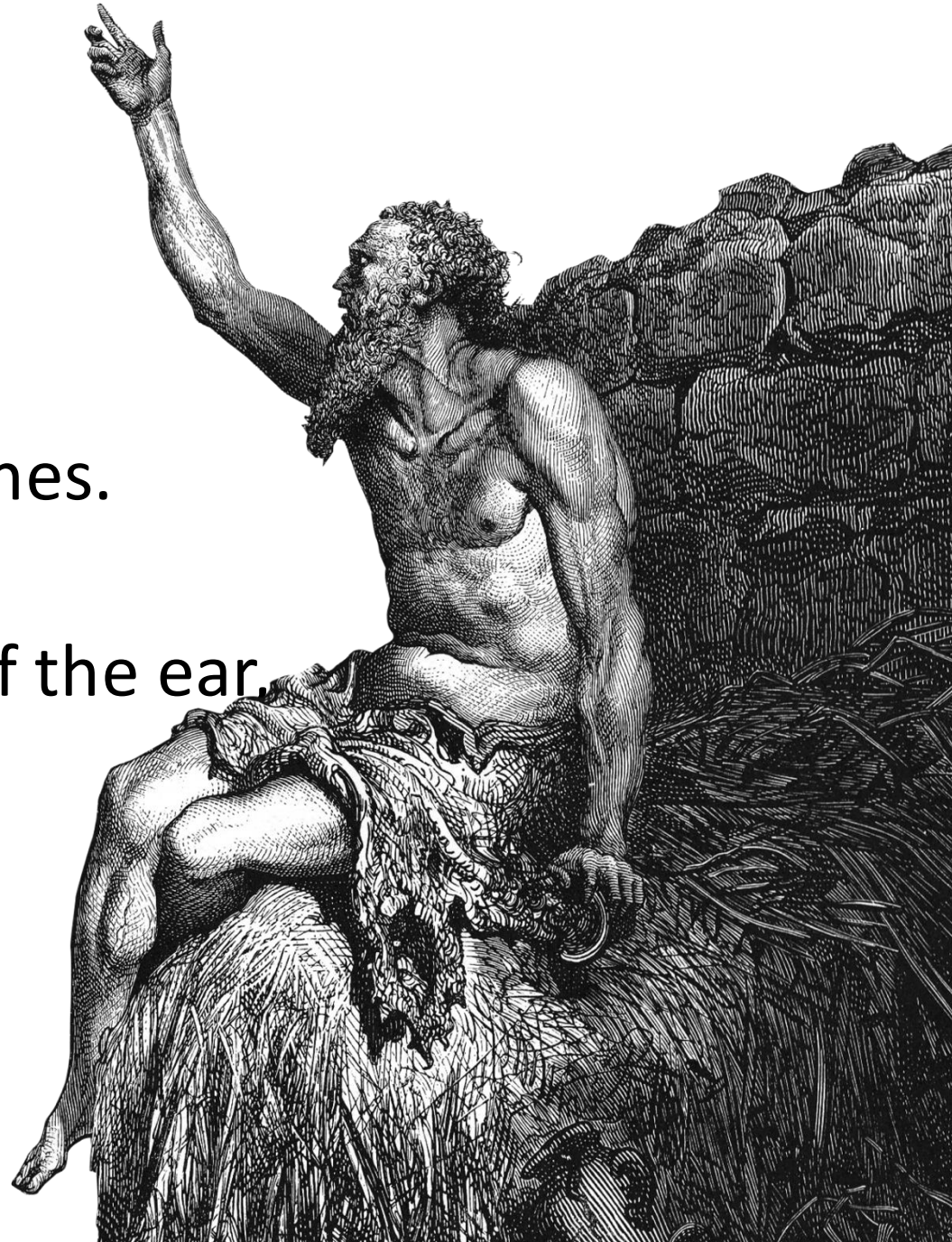
HEART OF THE PROPHETS

- In Jewish tradition (Talmud), Job is called a prophet of the Gentiles.
- Apostle James highlights Job's extraordinary faithfulness and perseverance despite his great trials and tribulations, and God's mercy towards him.
(James 5:11)
- The story...



HEART OF THE PROPHETS

- God has cast me into the mire,
and I have become like dust and ashes.
Job 30:19
- I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you;
**therefore I despise myself,
and repent in dust and ashes.**
Job 42:5-6

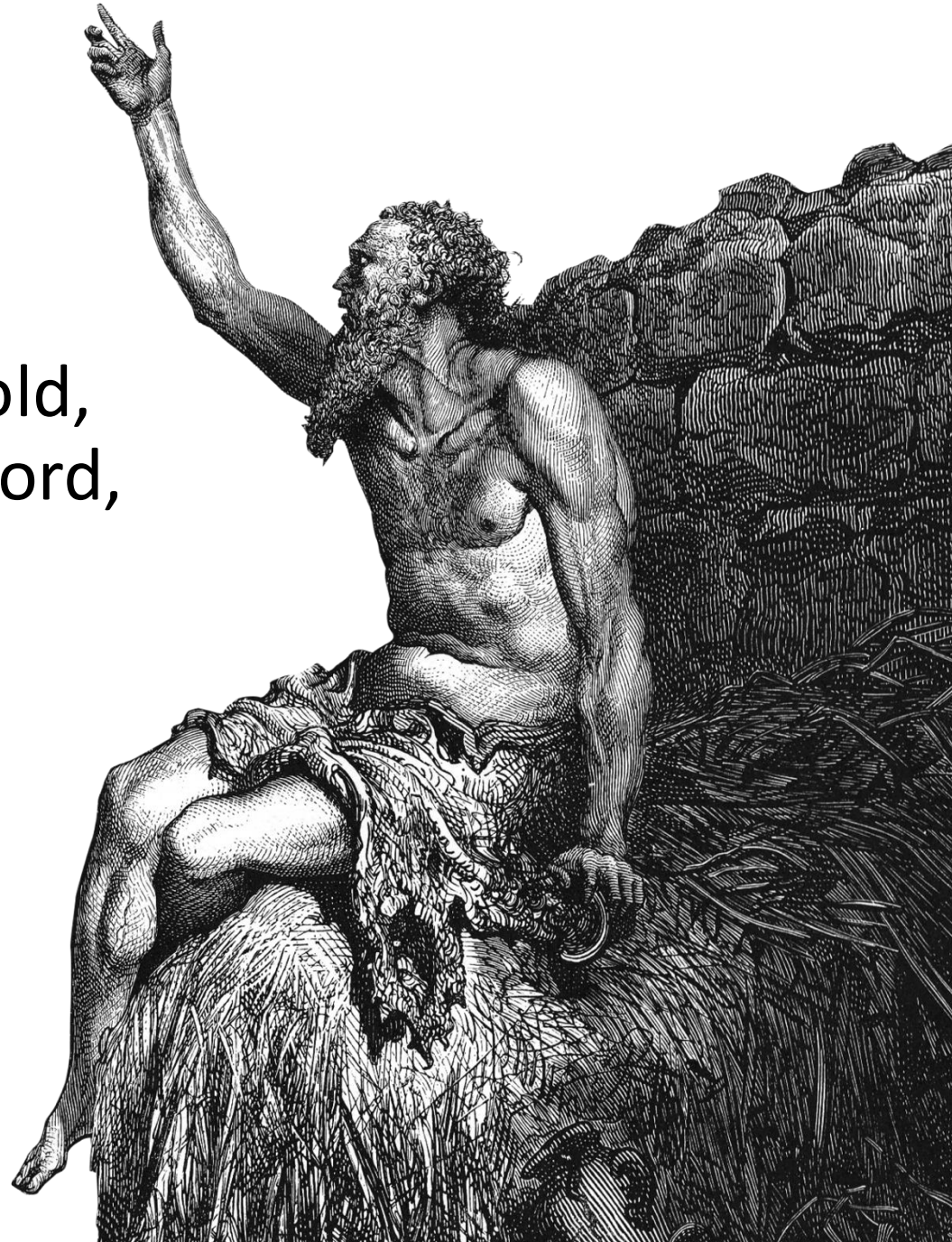


HEART OF THE PROPHETS

- Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes.”

Genesis 18:27

- But what does this mean?
Why dust? Why ashes?



MEANING OF DUST

- **Genesis 2:7** — “then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.”
- **Genesis 3:19** — “for dust you are and to dust you will return”.
- In Hebrew:
the name *Adam* is ***adam***, “man (or mankind)”
the word *ground* is ***adama***, “dust/soil of the earth”



MEANING OF DUST

- **To state the obvious:** Dust (as well as sand) is a vast collection of small, granular particles with no value or usefulness.
- Whereas ground with water like soil, mud, and clay is clumpier, less discrete, and can be useful for planting crops and trees, making bricks and pottery, and so on.
- **Simple, yet profound:** Sin turns you into dust—physically and spiritually. Your soul is disintegrating into useless, lifeless, individual particles of no value that cannot hold together.



MEANING OF DUST

Dust represents **death** and **man**:

1. Death, mortality, futility, shame, uselessness, and worthlessness (**Ecclesiastes 3:20, 12:7; Job 17:16, 21:26; Daniel 12:2**).
2. All mankind across time “in Adam” (**Genesis 22:17, 28:14, 32:12, 41:49; 2 Chronicles 1:9**).



MEANING OF DUST

- We see ancient cultures, peoples, prophets, kings, judges, and commoners of Israel, all sit, sprinkle, roll, or cover themselves in dust of the earth (**Joshua 7:6; Job 2:12, 42:6; 1 Samuel 4:12; 2 Samuel 15:32; Nehemiah 9:1**).
- **Why?**



REPENTING IN DUST

- Repenting in dust acknowledges that you are reduced back to dust from which you came, binding back God's consequence (**Genesis 3:19**).
- **Job 34:15** — “all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust.”

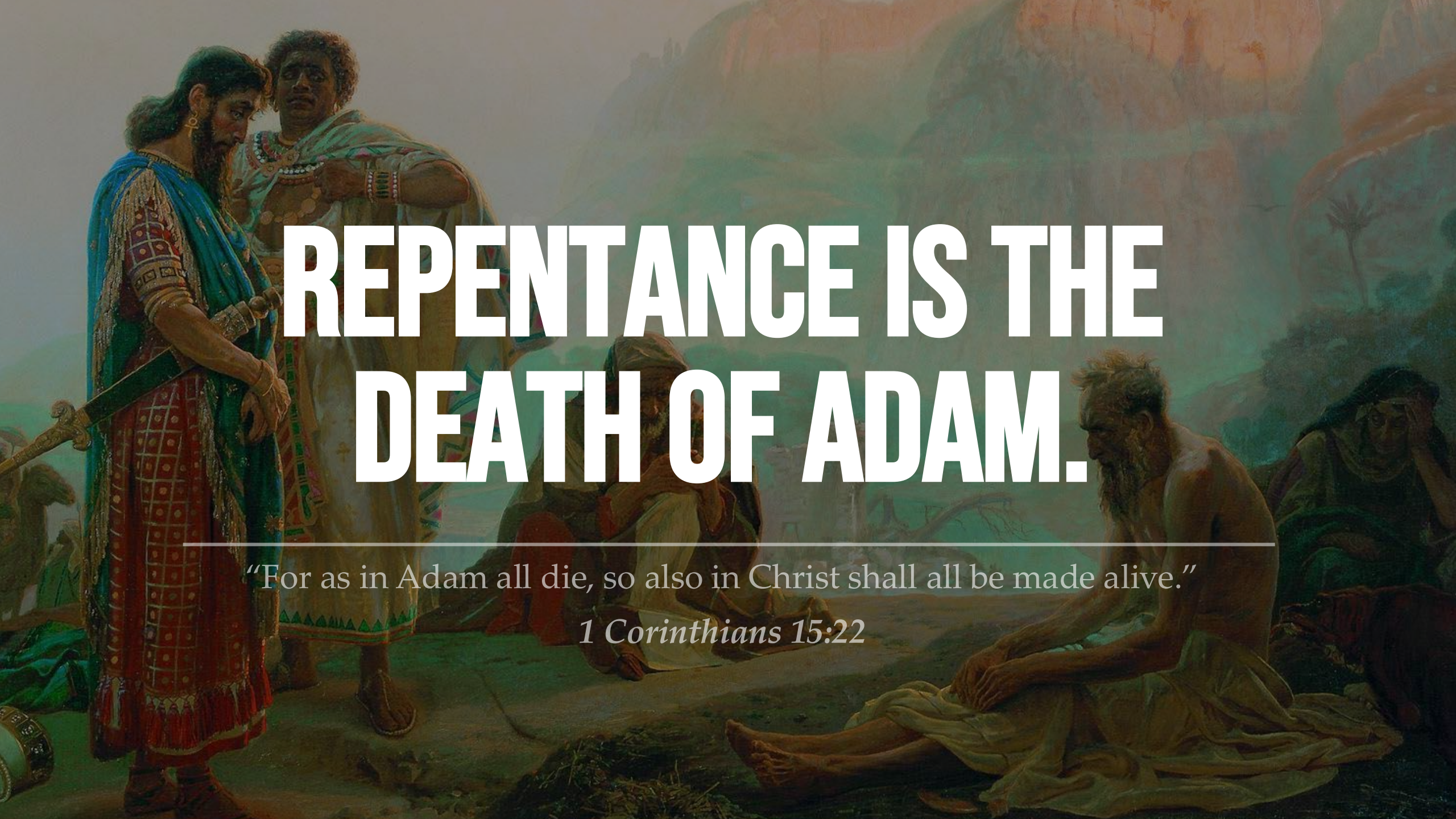


REPENTING IN DUST

Covering yourself in dust is a public declaration acknowledging:

- Where you came from and what you are.
- The death of self *now* before you die.
- The turning back to God from your evil ways: sins, trespasses, iniquity, and all sorts of wrongdoing that lead to death—the self is dead, I am nothing but dust.
- Because of the reality of God's character and nature in light of our own fallen nature.





REPENTANCE IS THE DEATH OF ADAM.

“For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”

1 Corinthians 15:22

DUST & ASHES

- In Hebrew, the words “dust” (*apar*) and “ashes” (*eper*) form of synophone, two words that have slightly different spellings and meanings, but sound and look very similar.
- Hebrew wordplay binds the two words together conceptually, sharing the same meanings of futility, worthlessness, mortality, and death—BUT...
- Ashes emphasizes destruction and judgment.



DUST & ASHES

- Consider when a city was destroyed by siege or a body burned in war, it would turn to ash (**Amos 2:1-3; 1 Samuel 31:8-13**).
- Jesus said that if the miracles performed in Chorazin and Bethsaida had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, “they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.” (**Luke 10:13**)



MEANING OF ASHES

- Ashes point to what happens after judgment/destruction (Jonah 3:6; Esther 4:1-3; Job 2:8; Isaiah 61:3; Jeremiah 6:26; Ezekiel 28:18; Malachi 4:3; Matthew 11:21; Luke 10:13; 2 Peter 2:6).
- Covering yourself in ashes is outward acknowledgement of destruction or repentance either: (a) in the face of judgment, calamity, or destruction, or (b) as a way of expressing that they have been destroyed or judged. I.e., “I have been turned into ashes...”



REPENTING IN ASHES

- Therefore, repenting in ashes acknowledges and appeals to God's sovereign authority and judgment over your life (cf. **Daniel 9:3**).
- Isaiah even parallels idolatry, false worship, and a deluded heart to one who “feeds on ashes”, as if they live on self-destructiveness, and that he “cannot save himself” from destruction — they love death (**Isaiah 44:20; Prov.8:36**).



REPENTING IN DUST & ASHES

If dust is what you are, ashes are what you become.

- 1. Dust is your whole self and nature—what you came from and what you are returning to.**
 - 2. Ashes is destruction and judgment—your final destination without God.**
- God created us from “the dust of the ground” and will judge and destroy the heavens and earth by fire on the Day of judgment (2 Peter 3:7-12, 1 Corinthians 3:13; Luke 12:49; Hebrews 10:27).



REPENTING IN DUST & ASHES

- Altogether then, to “repent in dust and ashes” means to fully humble yourself and surrender everything you are before God, to completely turn away from all evil:
**from beginning to end,
from creation to judgment,
from ancestors to descendants,
from birth to death,
from dust to ashes—I repent!**





NOTHING LEFT, BUT NEW ADAM.

“So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has
cannot be my disciple.”

Luke 14:33

REPENTING IN DUST & ASHES

- Turn away from the dust of your heart and return to God and be crowned like the stars above! You are a new man made in Christ Jesus (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).
- **1 Corinthians 15:47-49** — The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.



WASHING OFF DUST & ASHES

- And as for us descendants who repent and participate into the promise, we are washed clean of the dust and will rise from the ashes on that Day to come (**1 Samuel 2:6-9**).
- Once the dust and ashes are washed off by water, a new man is reborn, restored into a new way of life, an outward expression of repentance reflecting a spiritual reality.
- **Now think baptism and the Flood—you are a new creation rising out of the deluge! (**1 Peter 3:20-21**)**



EPHESIANS 4:17-24

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.



EPHESIANS 4:17-24

But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, **to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.**



REPENTANCE IS NOT...

- Repentance is not feeling sorry for yourself...
- **2 Corinthians 7:10** — For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.
- **Hebrews 12:17** — For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.



REPENTANCE IS RESTORATIVE

- Repentance > Forgiveness > Reconciliation: Humility
- Repentance is a progressive healing process, requiring contrition and perseverance. It is initial, then continual.
- **Matthew 3:8** — “Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.”
- Repentance is cutting off dead branches of our old self to bear more fruit of new creation...
- **Fruit of the Spirit Grows / Multiplies through Repentance**





REPENTANT HEART BEARS MORE FRUIT.

“Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.”

Matthew 3:8

PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION

Pastoral Prayer of Application of God's Word.

CALL THE ELDERS OF THE CHURCH

Prayer in the aisles — confession of sin, anointing of the sick, and pastoral intercession alongside communal prayer, praise, and worship.

James 5:13-16; Psalm 103:2-5

PSALM 103:1-5

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless His holy name!

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all His benefits,



PSALM 103:1-5

who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.



JAMES 5:13-16

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.

Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up.



JAMES 5:13-16

And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.
Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray
for one another, that you may be healed.

The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it
is working.



THE SENDING SONG

The final song of service before the Lord sends us out.

Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:18-20; Psalm 103:1-5, 150:1-6

BENEDICTION

Priestly Blessing

BENEDICTION

May the glory and love of God the Father,
And the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the power and communion of the Holy Spirit,
Conform you into the image of His Son this week
Go in the joy that surpasses all understanding.
Amen.

2 Corinthians 13:14, Philippians 4:7



FELLOWSHIP

Please check your bulletin for services this week.

