



## WORDS FOR WORSHIP LENT-EASTER YEAR B

Written by Rev. Sarah Are

---

*You are welcome to use or adapt these prayers for worship, with credit. When using these prayers for worship, please use the following credit line: "Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org." If you adapt the prayers, please include the following credit line: "Adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org." Refer to our licensing guidelines for more information: [sanctifiedart.org/licensing-terms](https://sanctifiedart.org/licensing-terms).*

---

### ABOUT THIS LITURGY OUTLINE

- *Italicized lines are notes for worship leaders.*
- Unbolded lines are to be spoken by worship leaders and, when appropriate, printed in bulletins or projected on screens.
- **Bolded lines are to be spoken by the congregation and printed in bulletins or projected on screens.**

### A CHARGE & BENEDICTION FOR THE SERIES

#### AGAIN & AGAIN, A LENTEN REFRAIN

As you leave this space,  
May your mouth speak of God's goodness.  
May your arms hold those in need.  
May your feet walk toward justice.  
May your heart trust its worth.  
May your soul dance in God's grace.  
And may this be your rhythm—  
Again and again and again,  
Until God's promised day.  
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,  
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.  
Amen.

ASH WEDNESDAY  
AGAIN & AGAIN, WE'RE INVITED IN

---

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are invited—

All: Into the story,  
Into this place,  
Into this hour of worship.

One: We are invited—

All: Into reflection,  
Into community,  
Into our own spiritual journeys.

One: We are invited—

All: The broken and bruised,  
The hopeful, the new,  
The faithful, the doubting,  
The wondering, the waiting.

One: We are invited—

All: Because God so loved;

One: So listen, trust the invitation, and bring your whole self.

All: All are invited here.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Ash Wednesday is a special day because it marks the start of something new.  
We are standing at the door of a journey into deeper faith, and God is inviting us in.

However, we know that we cannot grow deeper and be transformed without God's help. So as we begin this season, we confess together, asking for God's participation in this new beginning. We are asking God to hold open the door.  
Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Holy God—

We know that you are near,  
For you are always here, gathered among us, just a breath away.  
And despite knowing your nearness, we still stumble over ourselves, unsure of how to pray.

All: Bring our hearts into the room.

One: So often we talk to you like a stranger,  
Praying prayers of small talk about the weather and surface level concerns.  
We keep genuine fear and doubt tucked into corners, out of sight, out of mind.

All: Bring our hearts into the room.

One: And so often we try to think our way to you,  
As if we could use logic or our minds alone to explain your great unknown.  
We forget what we knew as children; we forget how to feel our way to you.

All: Bring our hearts into the room.

One: And too regularly, we limit our experience of you to one hour a Sunday,  
Missing your constant invitation into the holiness all around us.  
Forgive us. Guide us.

All: Bring our hearts into the room.

One: We are here, God. We want to begin again.

All: Bring our hearts into the room. Amen.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

### AGAIN & AGAIN, WE'RE INVITED IN (CONT.)

---

#### WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

**One:** Friends, whether you are standing at the door of a deeper faith journey,  
Unsure of what comes next,  
Or running your way through that threshold,  
You are claimed, forgiven, and loved by God.

**All:** Again and again, we are forgiven.

Again and again, we are loved.

Again and again, we are invited in.

**One:** Thanks be to God for a love like that.

**All:** Amen.

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Creator God,  
There is a rumbling in us that won't let go.  
It stirs in us like the wind stirs leaves—inviting us to move, drawing us forth.

When we're quiet, we know that rumble is the Holy Spirit,  
Dancing love awake in us.  
So we're here.  
And we're still.  
And we're quiet.  
And on this first day of Lent, we're asking you to draw near.  
As we hear your scripture read aloud, open the door for us to move.  
Invite us in. Rumble us awake.  
Gratefully we pray, Amen.

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in an inviting God  
Who invites the poor and the sick,  
The outcast and the lonely,  
The immigrant and the refugee,  
The awkward and the abrasive,  
The young and the innocent.  
We believe God invites the best and the worst—  
In all of us.

We believe God invites us to:  
A life of faith,  
A crowded table,  
A messy church,  
A deeper truth,  
A resilient joy,  
A place to belong,  
A family among strangers,  
A world that is just,  
And a love that knows no bounds.

We believe this invitation exists for all people.  
We believe this invitation exists for us.

And when we miss the call or ignore the invite,  
We believe that God invites us again.  
Thanks be to God for that invitational Spirit. Amen.