

Dust

Ash Wednesday, February 17 - 20

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

These words about our being dust and returning to dust remind us of our mortality every Ash Wednesday. The words are inspired by a passage from Genesis that tells about Adam and Eve being cast out of paradise and beginning to experience the consequences of their sin. God concludes a long list of the repercussions of sin with this declaration to Adam and Eve,

"...by the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return" Genesis 3:19.

We repeat these words as we begin the season of Lent because in this season we are invited to reflect on, and repent of, our sin. We remember our own mortality because of sin, and we confess the suffering that sin causes us and others. In repentance we seek to live new and different lives, turning from sin as we are inspired by God's love and empowered by God's grace. We remember those we love who have suffered death, and even as we grieve death, we reach out again for the sure and certain comfort and new life we have in Jesus Christ.

As people of faith, we seek each day to be reconciled with God and with one another. But a vital step in reconciliation is repentance, the holy and healing work each of us do when we take responsibility for our sins, confess the damage we have caused, and seek to make amends and set things right. May God give us the strength and will to do this holy and healing work of repentance this Lenten season.

#REthinkILC Lent Photo for this week: Inspired by the word "**DUST**", take a photo and either put it on your social media with **#REthinkILC** or email it to kelly@immanuel.us by noon on Saturday, February 20.

REnew52 action for this week: TALK. Talk with family and friends about how you live out your faith in daily life. How does faith influence and instruct your relationships, your work, and your life in the world?