

## ***“We are Dust Destined for Glory”***

**+ You are dust, and to dust you shall return. Genesis 3:19**

*Ash Wednesday is a dusty day. Look upon your humble beginnings and remember. When it's dry its dust, When it's moist, its clay. The Creator breathes life into the dust of who we are to be. That divine breath moistens the clay. We are lifted out of Mother Earth. Life arrives. Hearts begin to beat. One day your heart was among them.*

*How difficult it has been throughout the ages to keep these hearts pure, this clay moist! Look upon this clay and celebrate the memories of your earthly beginnings. How often your clay has dried up and cried out from its desert places! How often the Creator has heard your cry and made your dusty heart moist again. How often God has used other people to breathe life back into you?*

*Today as you begin your Lenten journey, look back into time and acknowledge your humble beginnings. Remember the dust of the entire human race made moist with the breath of God. Go outside and kneel upon Mother Earth. Take a moment to be in communion with all your relatives formed from the dust of Mother Earth. This is your family: the entire human race, peoples of all colors, the animals and birds, trees, plants and flowers. We are all relatives, intimately connected, **“This is Holy Ground!”***

***“O God, from whose hands I have come, on some days I cry out in dismay that I am dust. That dusty memory is painful. Then the truth that you are the source of my life begins to settle in, the soil of my soul. Encouraged by that truth, I bless this dust that is destined for glory. May the ashes of this day be a reminder both of my fragility and my call to glory. Amen”***

**Read Genesis 2: 4-8**