

Zion's UCC of Taborton
Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2018

Rev. Konrad Raup

Today is Ash Wednesday. Today is the day we begin preparing for the great paschal feast of Easter. Today is the day that we open our minds and our hearts to the reality of our own mortality through our marking with ashes. Out of dust we were created; to dust we shall return.

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Today is the day we begin to simplify our lives; eliminating what leads us away from God and bringing to the forefront those things which bring us closer to God. We begin to see where we have fallen short in our discipleship; we expose the need in us to repent of our misdeeds and reconcile with our sisters and brothers. Out of dust we were created; to dust we shall return.

Today is the day that our 40 day journey of prayer and fasting begins. Each of those days, we seek to listen to God. In silence we seek God's mercy. Our spirits kneel as we humbly try to better know ourselves. We seek to more fully understand why we do what we should not do, and leave undone the things we should do. Out of dust we were created; to dust we shall return.

Jesus was born, not to teach us how to die, but to teach us how to become fully alive. Read and listen to the Gospel stories. Hear what Jesus said. Know that you can be better than what you are. Out of dust we were created; to dust we shall return. But, we are Holy dust, beloved by our creator.