

SOUTHSIDE FELLOWSHIP

Creating brave spaces that nurture and inspire the human spirit

Preparing for Lent / Receiving Ashes

March 2nd, 2025

Some say God is unchanging.
But we say God unfolds like a flower.
Some say God is distant, unmoved by our suffering.
But we say God is the Most Moved Mover.
Some say God is set in Their ways.
But is not the Cosmos expanding, out & out & out?
~ Rev Molly Bolton



Meena Matocha (American, 1977–), *We Shake with Joy, We Shake with Grief*, 2019. Charcoal, ashes, soil, acrylic, and cold wax on panel, 12 × 12 in.

GATHERING

Welcome *Story of the Rainmaker*

Centering music

Call to Worship

Hymn *Could It Be That God Is Singing* **VT 42**

Prayer out of Psalm 7 ~ Psalms for Praying

Passing the Peace

Poet's Word *Grant us grace to be true words*
~ Barbara Sargent

Hymn *Lead me, guide me* **VT 601**

Affirmation of Faith **VT 922**

Offering

Sharing our lives and our prayers

Praying in the way of Jesus

TURNING TOWARD ASH WEDNESDAY

Scripture based on Joel 1

Pastoral Word

Receiving of Ashes

Hymn *Come, Ye Disconsolate* **VT 643**

THE WORD IN THE WORLD

Hymn *God, Be the Love* **VT 43**

Benediction

Psalms for Praying, Nan Merrill

Leader: God of Love, we draw close to you.
When all our fears well up, enfold us in your
strong arms.

People: *Otherwise, like a fiery dragon, our
fears will consume us and we shall live in our
illusions.*

Leader: Where we have been unkind or
unjust to others seeing our own weakness in
them,

People: *Forgive us, Gracious One, and give
us grace to make amends.*

Leader: Stay near, Heart of our hearts and
we will be strong to face our fears.

People: *Let all the fragmented parts of our
being gather around you. Help us to face
them one by one. For your healing presence
has the capacity to mend what is broken
and make us whole again.*

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*Southside Fellowship is an inclusive Anabaptist/Mennonite congregation that understands faith as a journey. At the core of our community is the boundless love of God, the justice-centered life of Jesus, and the mystery of the Spirit. We welcome all people to join us, including those who have been excluded elsewhere because of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, ability, economic status, marital status, age, or religious uncertainty.*