

Ashes

—**powdery grey**

from keeping on trying
to get a spark from two stones

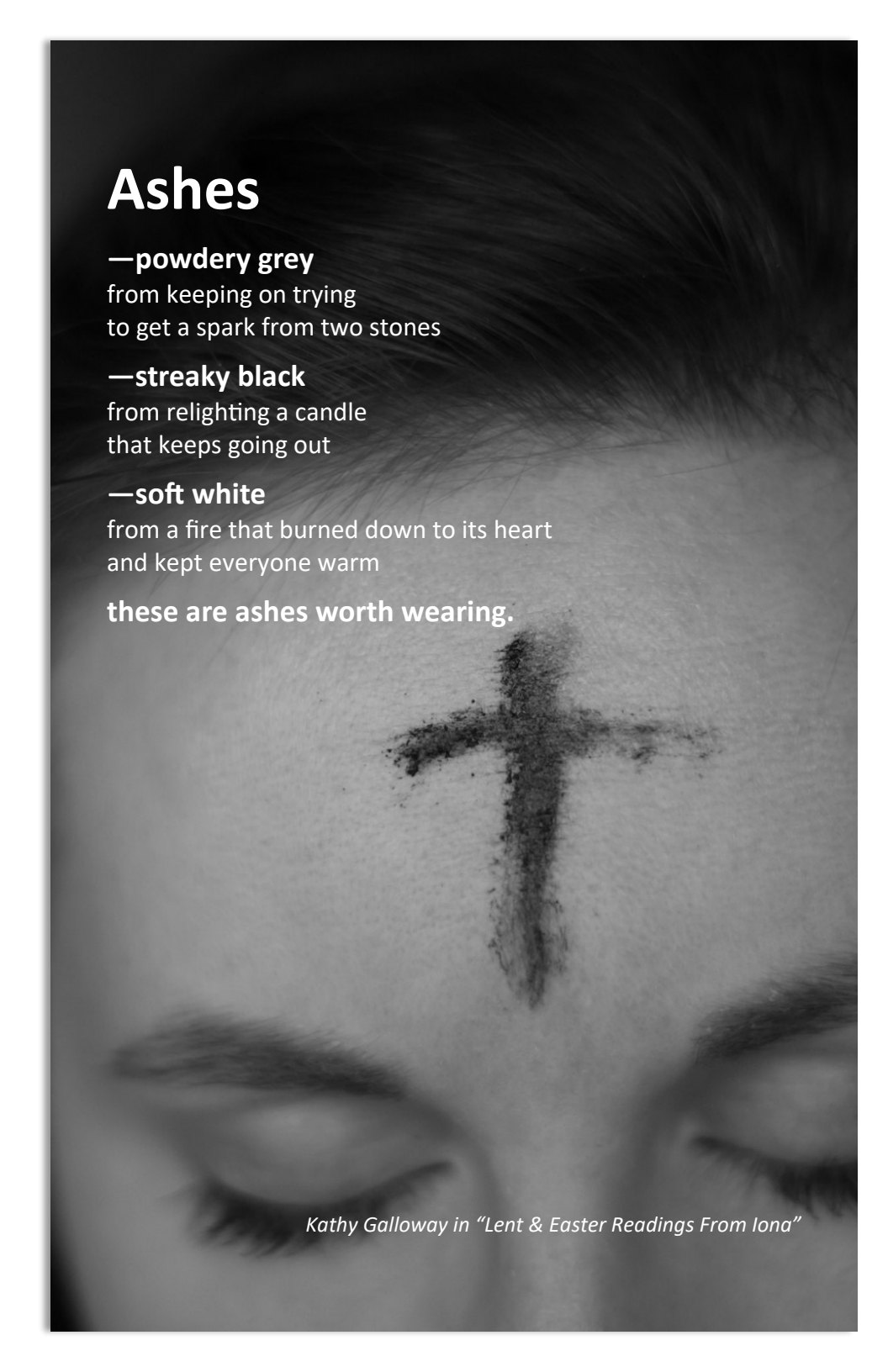
—**streaky black**

from relighting a candle
that keeps going out

—**soft white**

from a fire that burned down to its heart
and kept everyone warm

these are ashes worth wearing.



Kathy Galloway in "Lent & Easter Readings From Iona"

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

February 14, 2024 | 7p | McKee Chapel

SOUNDING THE HOUR

✝ CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us prepare now to enter the desert.

People: We will walk the road that Jesus walked.

Leader: Let us celebrate these forty days with songs of praise.

People: We will fast and pray with Jesus on the way.

Leader: Let us remember the times we turned away.

People: We will confess our sin and turn back to him.

Leader: Let us face those desert places in our lives.

**People: We will not go there alone.
Jesus has gone there before us.**

Leader: Face the desert we must, if we are to reach the joy of Easter.

ALL: Face the desert we must, but Jesus has gone there before us!

✝ HYMN #167 | “Forty Days and Forty Nights” —*Aus der Tiefe Rufe Ich*

PRAYER OF PREPARATION (*Unison*)

O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept a fast. May we do the same, repent and turn to you. Be with us through all we face, and free us from our past; give us strength that in joy we may follow you, and see the mystery of your grace shining through at journey's end. All glory be to you, Jesus, our friend... our guide... our Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE | Matthew 4:1-11 (*pew Bible, page 785*)

REFLECTION

INVITATION TO THE LENTEN JOURNEY

“Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.”

—Joel 2:12&13

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

PRAYER OF DEPARTURE (*Unison*)

God of desert places, pray for us now and throughout these forty days. Grant that these ashes may be a sign of your presence with us in each season of our lives, that when the final Easter dawns, we may join with you in everlasting joy, and sing praises to your Son, Jesus, who loves us. Amen.

✝ **HYMN #213** | “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” —*Rathbun*

✝ **BENEDICTION**

†Liturgy adapted from the “Wild Goose Big Book of Liturgies 2, Iona Community”



The Ash Wednesday Tradition

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent leading to the celebration of Easter Day.

Ashes are placed on the foreheads of believers as an indication of repentance, renewal and reflection upon the death of Jesus and our own mortality. Lent consists of forty days plus six Sundays. The final week, called Holy Week, begins with Palm Sunday (March 24) and includes services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, culminating in the celebration of Easter (March 31).

Tonight, you will be invited to receive the imposition of ashes on your forehead, hearing the words of scripture,

**“Remember that you are dust
and to dust you shall return.”**



TABERNACLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

418 East 34th Street
Indianapolis, Indiana
(317) 923-5458

tabpres.org

frontdesk@tabpres.org