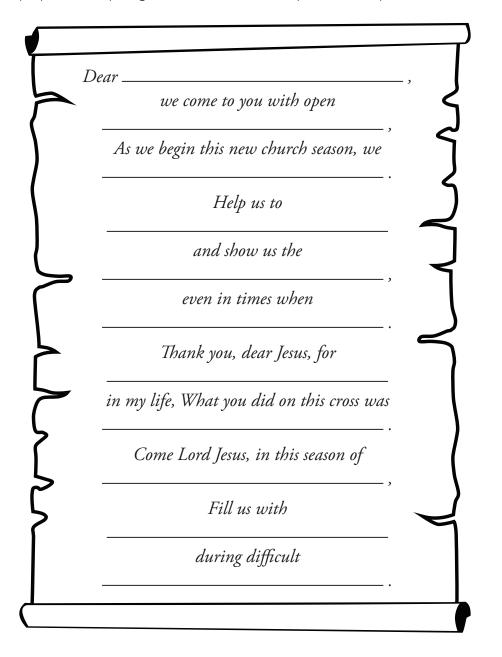## A Poetic Prayer

An important part of the season of Lent is being prayerful. What special prayers do you hear during the Ash Wednesday service? How are they different from the ones during Sunday worship? While some prayers are like casual conversations, others are more formal, like poems. Try writing a poem prayer below by filling in the blanks. Bonus: can you make it rhyme?
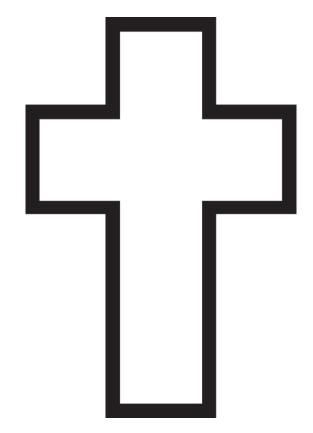
Dear _____ ,

we come to you with open

_____ ,

As we begin this new church season, we

_____ .

Help us to

_____

and show us the

_____ ,

even in times when

_____ .

Thank you, dear Jesus, for

_____

in my life, What you did on this cross was

_____ .

Come Lord Jesus, in this season of

_____ ,

Fill us with

_____

during difficult

_____ .

- Today is **Ash Wednesday**.
- On Ash Wednesday, a **cross of ashes** is marked on our forehead.
- The ashes remind us that we are sinners but also that **we are God's**.

Bring it to the Cross

Lent is an important time to think about who we are as followers of Jesus. This means thinking about all the good things we want to do in the name of Jesus. It also means recognizing that we mess up sometimes. Think about times you've done something wrong. Draw or write about them in the cross. The great news is that no matter what, we have a God who LOVES us and forgives us, and will do anything to show us that.
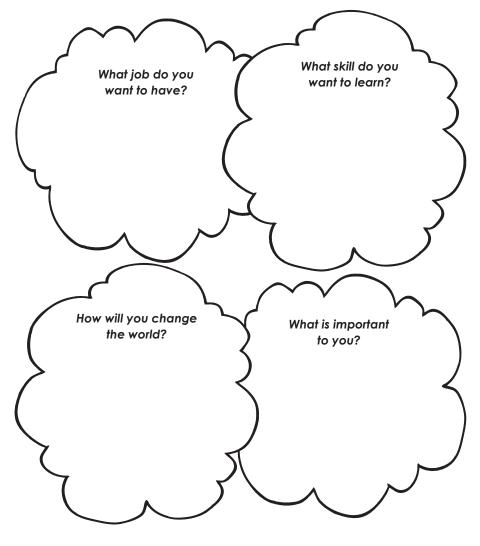
"For you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Memory Verse

On Ash Wednesday we hear these words: *You are dust, and to dust you will return.* What does that mean!? It means that as humans, we come from the earth, and one day, we will die and return to the earth. God lives forever, but we live for just a short time. Think about the things that you want to do with your life while you are here on earth. What are you goals? What are your dreams? Draw or write about them in these dust clouds.

What job do you want to have?

What skill do you want to learn?

How will you change the world?

What is important to you?

Praying in Private

As good as it is to share God's love with others, it is important not to show off your faith. In other words, when you pray or give to the needy, do it to honor God, not to brag in front of others. Try to figure out today's memory verse by solving this very private, secretive language!

♈	♉	♊	♋	♌	♍	♎	♏	♐	♑
A	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	**H**	**I**	**J**
♒	♓	☉	♆	☽	☋	☊	♂	☌	⚹
K	**L**	**M**	**N**	**O**	**P**	**Q**	**R**	**S**	**T**
□	△	⊼	☍	☾	☽				
U	**V**	**W**	**X**	**Y**	**Z**				
☉	♀	♄	♇	☽	☽	♅	◑	✶	◐
0	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**
◑	♆	○	☿	♃	♀				
;	**:**	**.**	**-**	**"**	**!**				