

## ASH WEDNESDAY

### HEBREWS 1:1-2 HEAR, O ISRAEL

*<sup>1</sup> In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.*

What a great way to begin the study of our faith. What a great way to start your day. God is the One who speaks to us, and when he speaks to human beings he does so in our context. Prophets, by definition, are the ones who speak the truths of God. It follows that the writers of all the books of the Bible are the prophets through whom God speaks. So, God spoke indirectly through human prophets to human beings in the time before Christ. But in Jesus, God the Son, as a human being, spoke directly to us. The Son is the ultimate truth. Jesus is the “first born” Son of God, that is, has the eternal stature of God. Jesus is also the creative Word of God that spoke all creation into being. Therefore, the incarnate Son is both the revelation and the fulfillment of God’s word.

God has communicated with us and continues to want to communicate with us. The eternal God, who is so absolutely beyond our understanding, is providing us with the opportunity to be in relationship with him. Given the vast difference between God and humankind, and the fact that a relationship can only be built on some level of knowledge between the partners, God graciously reveals himself to us at a level we can access. Because of his steadfast love he planned to tell us what was going to happen, participate in it happening, and then tell us what happened. All the work is God’s speech to the world. Our role, as his people, is to listen to him. The discipline of holy listening includes Bible study, prayer and worship. Strive to keep your ears open throughout the day, so that you might bask in the Sonshine of God’s love.

**Father, as you have spoken and continue to speak through your Word and Spirit, open my ears to hear your voice. Grow me in my dedication to living my life in expectant listening to you. Thank you for your steadfast love, through which you come to me and desire a relationship with me. Help me to maintain my attention on you in spite of all the distractions I have brought into my life. Amen.**