



# LENT

THROUGH THE LENS OF ASH WEDNESDAY

## **“Has the Balm Run Dry?”**

By Rev. Bruce Whyte, M.Div., BCC

Has the Balm of Gilead run dry?  
Like the tree that produces the elixir has run dry  
So has the people been cut  
Down by the iniquities of the Law

The Lord has called His people,  
But the answer falls on deaf ears  
Separation and brokenness toils the mind  
And the heart and body suffers its consequences

Relief comes when the chariot swings a bit lo'er  
And the rivers replenish in the mercy and grace of the Lord.  
The hope is there  
The will is exhausted

Where shall I find me in the shaded fig tree?  
Like a wasp sacrificed for the fruit of the fig,  
There I...me...chosen...predestined for the slaughter  
Like swine in the farm

Jealous, envious  
My color, my skin yearns for the light to be equal  
Where the rays bathe the melanin,  
Where my eyes do not shift looking for safety  
Affixed to the Son

Pain does not compare  
Hurt does not allow for relief  
Chained by the past  
Restrained from moving forward  
No, but the Lord has modeled

Nothing alone in secret  
Kingdom Community shall move with me  
Carrying burdens and sins equally  
To trust what is not steadfast  
The unthinkable to my enemies  
To become sheep in wolf 's clothing

The mask has broken me  
My heart cries generation's past.  
I come incomplete  
For the Lord makes me complete in them  
My heart heavy, Lord's steadfast love enduring  
Help me. Help us.  
Replenish the balm so that wounds may heal