Dust and Ashes

Brian Wren

POETIC METER: 7.8.5.6.8:6.7.6.5.

Dust and ashes touch our face,
mark our failure and our falling.
    Holy Spirit, come,
walk with us tomorrow,
take us as disciples,
wash and wakened by your calling.
    **Take us by the hand and lead us,**
    **lead us through the desert sands,**
    **bring us living water,**
    **Holy Spirit, come.**

Dust and ashes soil our hands -
greed of market, pride of nation.
    Holy Spirit, come,
walk with us tomorrow
as we pray and struggle
through the meshes of oppression.
    **Take us by the hand and lead us,**
    **lead us through the desert sands,**
    **bring us living water,**
    **Holy Spirit, come.**

Additional stanza, suitable for U.S. national occasions, inserted here for the United Methodist General Conference, 2012 –

Dust and ashes strew our past -
trails of torture, tears and plunder.
    Holy Spirit, come,
walk with us tomorrow.
Cleanse and knit together
wounds that sin has torn asunder.
    **Take us by the hand and lead us,**
    **lead us through the desert sands,**
    **bring us living water,**
    **Holy Spirit, come.**

Dust and ashes choke our tongue
in the wasteland of depression.
    Holy Spirit, come,
walk with us tomorrow
through all gloom and grieving
to the paths of resurrection.
Take us by the hand and lead us,
lead us through the desert sands,
bring us living water,
Holy Spirit, come.


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