

Dust and Ashes

Brian Wren

POETIC METER: 7.8.5.6.6.8:6.7.6.5.

Dust and ashes touch our face,
mark our failure and our falling.

Holy Spirit, come,
walk with us tomorrow,
take us as disciples,
washed 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.**

Published with Hal Hopson's tune DUST AND ASHES in *Bring Many Names* (Brian Wren hymn collection, Hope Publishing Company, 1989). Also published in the New Century Hymnal, 1996.

See also Ron Klusmeier's tune at <http://www.musiklus.com/anthology-catalog/dust-and-ashes>

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