

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
ASH WEDNESDAY
February 18, 2026**

Chimes

Introduction to the Service

Organ Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship (L — Leader; P — People)

L: Grace and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: Amen.

L: The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places.

P: Thanks be to God

***Hymn of Faith: “Jesus, Keep Me near the Cross” #197**

***Litany of Confession**

L: For everything there is a season

P: and a time for every matter under heaven;

L: A time to be born

P: and a time to die.

L: A time to keep

P: and a time to give away.

L: This is a season of repentance,

P: for turning away from aimlessness and sin;

L: For re-turning our lives and hearts to God,

P: as joyful disciples of Christ.

L: Let us pray.

P: Most holy and merciful God: We confess to You and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

L: We have not loved You with all our heart, and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: We have been deaf to Your Call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved Your Holy Spirit.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: We confess to You, O God. All our past unfaithfulness, the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives.

P: We confess to You, O God.

L: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people.

P: We confess to You, O God.

L: Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

P: We confess to You, O God.

L: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in our daily life and work.

P: We confess to You, O God.

L: Our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

P: We confess to You, O God.

L: Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, for uncharitable thought toward our neighbors and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us.

P: Accept our repentance, O God.

L: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

P: Favorably hear us, O God, for Your mercy is great. Amen.

***Assurance of God’s Love**

L: When we cry for help, God will respond, “Here I Am.” The sincerity of our confession is more pleasing to God than all our boasting and accomplishments. Through our Guide, our Nourishment, our Strength, we can repent of our wrongdoing and rebuild our relationships, and the light of God’s unfailing love will be magnified in us. *(Please be seated)*

Scripture Reading: Joel 2: 1 – 2, 12 – 17

Psalter: Psalm 51, page 657

Anthem: “A Clean Heart” Burroughs

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6: 1 – 6, 16 – 21

Hymn: “Savior, When in Tears and Dust” #185

Imposition of Ashes

Thanksgiving over the Ashes

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray: Almighty God, You have created us out of the dust of the earth; Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence so we may remember that only by Your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Offertory

***Dedicatory Prayer (In Unison)**

Dear God, You call us to repentance as we begin this new season of faith. If through careless ways we ignore Your grace, O Lord, prick our hearts, shake us, make us aware of Your abiding presence, and lead us in the way of the everlasting. This, and Your blessing upon these offerings, we pray in Jesus's name. Amen.

***Hymn of Response: "Again, We Keep This Solemn Feast" #187**

***Commissioning**

L: Go into this Season of Lent knowing that God forgives you and calls you to become a new person.

P: We go in God's peace.

L: Go to hear stories of covenant, knowing that in Jesus Christ, God makes a new and everlasting covenant with all people.

P: We go in God's peace.

L: Go as people with changed hearts, living your lives in response to God's never-ending love.

P: We go in God's peace.

***Postlude "Will Sing of Thy Great Mercies" Mendelssohn/Smith**

Pastor
Organist

The Rev. Joe Long
Claire White