



February 18, 2026
7:00 pm

GATHERING

PRELUDE: "O Man, Bewail Thy Grievous Fall" by Johann Sebastian Bach / Robert Phillips, Organist

***TRINITY BELS**

***INTROIT:** "Seek the Lord" by Hal H. Hopson / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

***CALL TO WORSHIP** / Led by Cindy Qualtieri, Liturgist

(Liturgist) We are but dust, destined to return to dust—fragile and powerless.

(People) Forgive us for our pride and indifference.

(L) We repent of the times we have forgotten your love.

(P) Forgive us for listening to the noise of the world and turning away from your voice.

(All) We return to you, O Lord. With torn hearts and contrite spirits, we bow before you. Renew us by your grace.

(A moment of silent prayer)

(Liturgist) The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. The Lord will never turn away those who truly repent. So in the name of Jesus Christ, I declare to you: You are forgiven. The grace of the Lord is here, among us, even now.

(All) May the peace of Christ rest upon every heart that turns to him. Amen.

(*Adapted from the Ash Wednesday Resource of Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church, 2026)

***HYMN: #269** “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” by Claudia F. Hernaman (Verses 1 & 2 only) / Led by Phil Bremenstuhl, Hymn leader

Verse 1

Lord, who throughout these forty days
for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins
and close by thee to stay.

Verse 2

As thou with Satan didst contend,
and didst the vict'ry win,
O give us strength in thee to fight,
in thee to conquer sin.

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

The Good News of Jesus Christ

¹ Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ² through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures ⁴ and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you believed.

(Liturgist) This is the word of God for the people of God.

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

ANTHEM: “Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God” by Carl F. Mueller /The Aldersgate Chorale (Directed by Yvonne Flagg)

***GOSPEL READINGS:** / Liturgist

Mark 1:14-15 (NRSVue)

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

¹⁴ ... Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

Luke 4:16-21 (NRSVue)

The Mission Statement of Jesus

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

**¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.**

**He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,**

to set free those who are oppressed,

¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

(All) Glory to You, O Christ! Amen!

SERMON "THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS COME NEAR (Part I)" (Lenten/Easter Sermon Series, "The Message of Jesus," 1 of 9) / Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

(Rev. J. T. Kim, FUMC) Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: the early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.

(Dara Johnson, Wesley) During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church. In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.

(Kris Lovekin, FUMC) I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now bow before our Creator and Redeemer.

(All) Amen.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER OVER THE ASHES

(Rev. Kim) 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 that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

(All) Amen.

PRAAYER RESPONSE: "This Is Our Prayer" by Sally Ahner

INTRODUCTION TO THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(Dara Johnson) The apostle Paul writes: "We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God; for our sake God made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain."

(Kris Lovekin) Ash is a traditional sign of your own mortality and repentance. Tonight, the mark of the cross is made upon your foreheads in ash as a sign of our desire to be reconciled with God.

(Rev. Kim) Come before God.

(All) We come confessing our failings.

(Dara Johnson) Come before God.

(All) We come acknowledging our need.

(Kris Lovekin) Come before God.

(All) We come facing our mortality.

(Rev. Kim) Come before God.

(All) We come ready to receive God's forgiveness and fullness of life. Amen!

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(Rev. Kim) We are formed from the dust and to dust we shall return. These ashes are a sign of our mortality and repentance. Yet they are also a sign of our hope— a longing for new life rooted in faith. You are now invited to come forward to receive an ash cross marking on your forehead. Please choose one of the three Ash Imposition stations.

When the leader says, "**Repent, and believe the gospel,**" please respond it by saying, "**Amen.**" Come forward in faith to receive this sign.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES: "Choral Dorien" by Jehan Alain

(After the Impositions of Ashes)

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Rev. Kim) Let us pray in silence, being grateful to God's grace, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

(After the Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF PARDON

(Rev. Kim) May the almighty and merciful God, who desires not the death of a sinner but that we turn from wickedness and live, accept your repentance, forgive your sins, and restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life.

(All) Amen.

***HYMN: #269** "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" by Claudia F. Hernaman ~~verses 3, 4~~

Verse 3

As thou didst hunger bear and thirst,
so teach us, gracious Lord,
to die to self, and chiefly live
by thy most holy word.

Verse 4

And through these days of penitence,
and through thy passiontide,
yea, evermore, in life and death,
Jesus, with us abide.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Adapted from Matthew 6) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) Knowing how much God has given us, let us come with grateful hearts to offer our loving gifts.

(All) Amen!

(Liturgist) I invite the ushers to receive our offering.

OFFERTORY: "Hark! A Voice Saith, 'All Are Mortal'" by Johann Sebastian Bach

***DOXOLOGY: #95** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" by Thomas Ken

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (Adapted from Matthew 6) / ALL / Led by Liturgist
Abundant God, we bring these gifts to you in thanksgiving and praise. Bless these gifts, that they may help your children everywhere. As we offer you our hearts, fill us with the treasure of your love and grace. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN: #269** "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" by Claudia F. Hernaman (Verse 5)

Verse 5

Abide with us, that so, this life
of suffering overpast,
an Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last!

*BENEDICTION

(Rev. Kim) The ashes on our foreheads today are not the mark of our shame, but the seal of grace. To remember that we are dust is not to deny our worth, but to remember that even dust was shaped by the hands of God and filled with divine breath. Let us walk this Lenten journey now— in silence, in waiting, ready to hear the whisper of God.

(All) Amen!

POSTLUDE: "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" by Dale Wood

(The congregation leaves in silence)

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