



Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you
are dust, and to dust
you shall return.*

Ecclesiastes 3:20

Rockport United Methodist Church

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ORDER OF WORSHIP
ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

7:15pm

GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

PRELUDE *“My Lord! What a Morning!”* John Kember

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

LEADER: Beloved of God, we gather at the edge of Lent with dust on our foreheads and truth in our hearts.

PEOPLE: *We come remembering we are dust, and to dust we shall return.*

LEADER: We come not in shame, but in honesty; not in fear, but in longing.

PEOPLE: *We come to return to the Lord with all our heart.*

LEADER: God calls us to rend our hearts, not our garments. To seek mercy, not performance.

PEOPLE: *Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.*

LEADER: This is the season of turning. This is the hour of grace.

PEOPLE: *We return to You, O God for You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.*

LEADER: Come, let us worship the One who forms us from dust and breathes into us new life.

ALL: *We come to worship. Amen.*

***HYMN** *“God is Here”* UMH 660

***UNISON PRAYER**

Gracious and Eternal God, You formed us from the dust of the earth and breathed into us the breath of life. As we begin this holy season of Lent, slow us down. Strip away our

distractions. Quiet the noise around us and within us. Help us to see ourselves clearly, not through shame, but through Your mercy. When we are tempted to perform faith instead of practicing it, draw us back to what is real. When our hearts grow hard, soften them with Your compassion.

Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Shape this season into a time of turning, of healing, and of holy transformation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM

"In an Upper Room"

Besig

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 5:1-9

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many ill, blind, lame, and paralyzed people. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The ill man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am making my way someone else steps down ahead of me." Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a Sabbath.

SERMON

"Do You Want to Be Made Well?"

Pastor Tennille Power

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

UNISON CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have been distracted and divided. We have rushed past the sacred and neglected what matters most. We confess the pride that keeps us from repentance, the

fear that keeps us from surrender, and the habits that keep us from change. We have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us, O God. Return us to You. Break what needs breaking. Heal what needs healing. Restore what has been lost.

Remember that we are dust but breathe into us again the life of Your Spirit. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

***IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

When you are ready, come down the center aisle to receive the ashes and return to your seat along the side aisles

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

***LORD'S PRAYER**

***HYMN**

"Heal Me, Hands of Jesus"

UMH 262

***DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

"What Wondrous Love is This?"

Mark Hayes

(You are invited to be seated for the Postlude before exiting the Sanctuary.)

*Please stand if you are able

SERVING THE LORD AT ROCKPORT

Pastor

Pastor Tennille Power

Lay Leader

Dan Newman

Music

Susan Shick, Gabriela Martinez & Javier Gonzalez

Church Office Administrator/Bookkeeper

Sara Chapman

Lector

Jeff Zullo

Sound/Video

Scott Holchin