

Ash Wednesday Service

February 18, 2026 7 PM

*The invitation to renew our hearts is before us.
The assurance of God's steadfast love is always with us. (Joel 2)*

Prelude

Greeting & Introduction

Prayer of Releasing

*Hymn 269 "Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days"

Scripture Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Scripture Psalm 51:1-17

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

*Hymn 395 "Take Time to Be Holy"

Scripture 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Gospel Lesson Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

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 a custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration
there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.
During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism.

(continued)

* = *Please stand in body or spirit*



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.

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 kneel before our Creator and Redeemer.*

Imposition of Ashes

Special Music

Reflection

“What God Does with Dust”

Rev. Mary K. Dadisman

*Hymn 292

“What Wondrous Love is This”

*Benediction

Postlude

*from the UM Book of Worship

**Liturgy Resources are from Spacious Faith by Joana Harader

<https://spaciousfaith.com/2023/01/18/ash-wednesday-worship/>

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