



*Embodying Jesus'
All-Encompassing
Hospitality*

Florida's first Presbyterians, since 1824

**Please stand as you are able*

February 18, 2026

6:00 p.m.

A SERVICE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on "I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ"

J. S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

God's love endures forever.

God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

God's love endures forever.

PRAYER OF THE EVENING

*HYMN NO. 166

"Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days"

ST. FLAVIAN

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

O.T. pg. 800

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"Create in Me"

Michael Bedford

MEDITATION

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

LITANY OF PENITENCE (*responsive*)

Let us pray.

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.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have not listened to Your call to serve as Christ served us,

Have mercy on us, O God.

Silence is observed

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

We confess to You, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,

We confess to You, O God.

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of other people,

We confess to You, O God.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to You, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship,

We confess to You, O God.

Silence is observed

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,

Accept our repentance, O God.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let Your anger depart from us.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES (*responsive*)

Almighty God, You have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by Your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

As you are prompted by an usher, you are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes. Please keep a holy silence.

After the imposition of ashes, the congregation prays responsively:

RESPONSE

"Jesus Remember Me"

Je - sus, re - mem ber me when you come in - to your King - dom.

Je - sus re - mem ber me when you come in - to your King - dom.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn "Jesus Remember Me". The first staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics "Je - sus, re - mem ber me when you come in - to your King - dom." are written below the first staff. The second staff is identical to the first, with the lyrics "Je - sus re - mem ber me when you come in - to your King - dom." written below it. The second staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

SENDING

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

All quietly depart

**Please stand as you are able*

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Dr. Hunter Camp, Pastor and Head of Staff
Rev. Rachael McNeal, Associate Pastor of Youth and Outreach
Matt Daniel, Director of Music and Organist

Ash Wednesday and Lent

Often called the Day of Ashes, Ash Wednesday starts Lent by focusing the Christian's heart on repentance and prayer, usually through personal and communal confession.

On Ash Wednesday, the congregation is invited to receive ashes on their foreheads. The pastor will dip his or her finger into the ashes, spread them in a cross pattern on the forehead, and say, "From dust you came and from dust you will return."

The ashes of this holiday symbolize two main things: death and repentance (Genesis 2:7). When we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults and grow closer to God so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with deeper joy.

Lent and Ash Wednesday are worthy traditions of the church, traditions that started about 1600 years ago. Lent is the 40 days, excluding Sundays, from Ash Wednesday until the day of resurrection, Easter.

Lent originated as the culmination of the three-year process to become a member of the church. It was the last forty days before the person was baptized at sunrise on Easter morning.

Lent is marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where He fasted and where Satan tempted Him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.