



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASH WEDNESDAY

Sacrament of Holy Communion
18 February 2026 + 6:30 p.m.

Welcome

Voluntary

Prelude in E

Alexander Scriabin

***Call to Worship**

Juniper Berkowitz

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and
abounding in steadfast love.

People: **God does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our mistakes.**

Leader: As the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is God's love; as far as the east is from the
west, God removes our sins that far from us.

People: **For God knows us and remembers that we are dust.
Our hope is in the Lord.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the One to whom we belong.

***Processional Hymn 165**

The Glory of These Forty Days

Erhart Uns, Herr

***Litany of Confession**

August Ekstedt

Leader: Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.
We have many treasures on earth that we hold dearly.

People: **When we sin against neighbor, condone injustice,
and quarrel with one another,**

Leader: we sin against you.

People: **Forgive us, we pray, for we are broken in spirit.
Do not see us for our faults, and do not go away from us.**

Leader: Keep us always in your presence
so that we may be restored to the joy of your salvation.

People: **Sustain us in a willing spirit to treasure what you desire.
Then our hearts will be opened in joy and gladness.**

***Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us Hymnal, Back Cover

***Declaration of Pardon
and Passing of the Peace**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

***Response of Praise** Gloria Patri Hymnal, Back Cover

Anthem Standing in the Need of Prayer Traditional

First Scripture Reading Psalm 91 Sam Berkowitz

Leader: You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty
**People: will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust."**
Leader: Because you have made the LORD your sanctuary
the Most High your dwelling place,
**People: no evil shall befall you,
no harm will come near you.**
Leader: For God will command God's angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
**People: On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.**
Leader: Those who love God, God will deliver;
and will protect those who know God's name.
**People: When they call on God, God will answer them,
will rescue them, and will honor them.**

Musical Reflection Create in Me a Clean Heart John Carter

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit. Psalm 51

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 18:9-14

Meditation

What Do You Mean By That? Fasting Rev. Sarah A. Bishop

Meaning of Holy Communion

Roscoe Ekstedt

Leader: We come to the gracious table of the Lord spread before us as a gift of grace, and a visible sign of the love we are offered in Christ. As we receive the bread and the cup, we remember Jesus offered his body and blood when he died on the cross. Jesus brings healing & wholeness to our famished souls.

People: **Lord, we remember your gift of healing and wholeness as we share in the bread of life and cup of salvation.**

Meaning of the Ashes

Paislee Reich

Leader: We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. The ashes come from the branches of last year's palms. This sign reminds us of our humanity, the uncertainty of our days, the certainty of our loving Creator, and the need for healing and wholeness.

People: **Lord, we remember that we are created by you and belong to you in life and in death.**

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

The Imposition of the Ashes and Communion of the People

*Worshippers are invited to come forward for the Imposition of Ashes and to receive Communion.
Take a piece of bread and dip it into the cup.*

***Prayer after Communion** Holy and Loving God, who joined us in our humanity in Jesus Christ, we are grateful for the nourishment we receive at your table to strengthen us for our journey into Lent. As we depart, may the sign of the ashes remind us of our humanity. May we open our hearts to one another and walk with integrity all the days of our lives. Amen.

***Hymn 836** Abide With Me *Eventide*

***Blessing and Charge**

***Voluntary** Album Leaf Alexander Scriabin
(* *The congregation is invited to stand.*)

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE:

Rev. Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall, Rev. Sarah A. Bishop, Dale T. Rogers, Bridges children

CHILDREN'S CHOIR:

Benji Berkowitz, Juniper Berkowitz, Sam Berkowitz, Everard Carlson-Eastvold, Roscoe Ekstedt, Teddy Ekstedt, Chandler Reich, Eva Volle and Mae Volle

ELDERS SERVING COMMUNION:

Sandy Bellatti, Vonnie Hinesley, Julie McDonough, Brad Swanson, Carolyn Swandson, Lyle VanDeventer

THE COMMUNION BREAD is classic soft wheat and was lovingly prepared by Susan Day.

DEACON USHERS:

Ben Arnold, Chelsea Eckstedt, Joyce King, Pete Sherman

We give special thanks to: Meleah Berkowitz, Director for Children's Ministry for leading Midweek Bridges and Dale Rogers, for directing our Children's Choir.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL: BEATITUDES

As you leave the Sanctuary, be sure to pick up your copy of *Beatitudes: at home Lent Family Devotional*. A weekly devotional for the entire church family with opportunities to reflect on the artwork, scripture and pray together. Create space to remember God's presence and Jesus' teachings in the Beatitudes this Lent. A digital copy can also be downloaded by scanning the QR code below.

