



Ash Wednesday

Frederick Presbyterian Church

Ash Wednesday Service

February 18, 2026

7:00 AM

GATHERING

(In silence, we gather in a spirit of meditation and devotion.)

GREETING

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

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

People: God's love endures forever.

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

People: Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change,

Leader: though the mountains shake in the heart of sea;

People: though the waters roar and foam,

Leader: though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

People: God's love endures forever.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (... now and forever. **Amen**)

FIRST READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

(A period of silence follows for personal reflection.)

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-6:10

(A period of silence follows for personal reflection.)

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

(A period of silence follows for personal reflection.)

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

(... through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**)

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(The congregation is invited to come forward for the imposition of the ashes.)

A PSALM OF CONFESSION (*read in unison*)

Psalm 51:1-17

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.
And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.
Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.
For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
 wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.
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.
Give me the joy of your saving help again
 and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.
Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
 O God of my salvation.
Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,
 but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart,
 O God, you will not despise.*

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: ... in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: ... the peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

(The people exchange signs and words of Christ's peace.)

***BLESSING AND CHARGE**

Leader: May the God of peace make you holy in every way
and keep your whole being — spirit, soul and body —
free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Those who are able, please stand.*

*Please pray that at this time of renewal each of us is renewed in our faith and belief in Jesus Christ,
our Lord and Savior.*

*Lenten Devotional Guides, for all ages,
are available in Heritage Hall.*

*Join us Wednesdays during Lent for
Morning Prayer at 7:00 AM (in-person and [Zoom](#))*