

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Where Faith and Life Connect"

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Rev. Dr. Richard Coble, Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Gradye Parsons, Parish Associate

Rev. John Linton Muntz, Parish Associate Emeritus

Amanda Fox, Interim Youth Director

Dr. Edie Johnson, Music Director/Organist

Jennifer Manrod, Assistant Children's Director

Renee Wieseuegel, Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Joanna Warren, Administrative Assistant

Debbie Bendy, Abbey Editor

Benjamin Dockter, Worship Tech



February 18, 2026

6:00 PM

THE SESSION

Class of 2026

Bill Farnham

Lee Ingram

Lucy Johnson

Kathryn Oakes

Richard Ward

Youth Elder: Bobby Powell

Class of 2027

George Barber

Mary Boyd

Allie Brewington

Emily Gustafson

Ken Hughes

Class of 2028

Amanda Fox

Mary Jo Mann

Tim Ryan

Ginger Williams

Michael Yates

Clerk of Session: Bitsy Ingram

TRUSTEES

John Smartt

Larry Tragesser

Bill West

ASH WEDNESDAY

PRELUDE From *The Good Shepherd*

Margaret Vardell Sandresky

I. The Saviour's Blood and Righteousness (RHAW)

II. Come, Faithful Shepherd, Bind Me (REJOICE)

III. Jesus, Still Lead On (SEELLENBRÄUTIGAM)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Have mercy, Lord, according to the measure of thy love;
Blot out my sin, and from my heart All wickedness remove.

**All: The failings of my deeds and thoughts are ever in my sight;
Release me from the path of death, and set my course aright.**

One: Into my secret heart send truth, let wisdom in me grow;
O wash the evil from my hands, and make me pure as snow.

**All: A clean and upright heart, O Lord, exchange for mine of stone;
Thy Holy Spirit meld with mine, and leave me not alone.**

One: A contrite heart is thy desire, my offering, the same;
My lips unlatch, my mouth engage thy praises to proclaim.

***HYMN NO. 215** (Insert) What Wondrous Love is This **WONDROUS LOVE**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Isaiah 58:1-12

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Drop, Drop Slow Tears arr. Sarah McDonald

Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beauteous feet, which brought from
heaven the news and Prince of Peace.

Cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat; to cry for vengeance sin doth never
cease.

In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears; nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.

Ruth Ann Bendy and Esteban Cano, Soloists

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

One: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, you are one who guards and guides our way.

All: Have mercy upon us.

One: To follow you is to trust you in paradox;
that from a broken, aching heart,
rises a healing and hopeful heart.
that out of weakness and vulnerability,
grows the quickening of Christ's Love.
that in darkness and despair,
the radiance of Christ's Light shines.

All: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, we fail to follow you; we turn away. Forgive us, we pray.

One: As certain as the morning sun that rises, you are here, Lord.

LITANY OF REPENTANCE

One: There was evening, then morning, the first day.

All: And it was good. Very good.

One: This day. This Evening. Ashes to Ashes. Dust to Dust.

All: We are grounded in the Source of All Being. This day. This Evening.

One: For needing evidence for every holy matter, and wanting none for our indifference to all Injustice,

All: Forgive and accept our repentance.

One: For failure to speak and praise your name alone and that we do not make a defense for the hope that is within us,

All: Forgive and accept our repentance.

One: Restore us, O God.

All: Favorably hear us, for your mercy and forgiveness are great. Amen.

HYMN NO. 166 (Insert) Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days ST. FLAVIAN

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Responsive)

One: This is a table of Christ's Light and Love.

This is a table of God's good grace.

This is a table of the Spirit's sustenance.

Christ invites all those who trust in him, to come to this table.

Soaring Spirit, Radiant Lord,

All: You are there. You whisper hope, you softly call to us, as you have through all time, "Come home." In you is our home.

One: In stable and temple, river and hillside, cross and tomb, action and mystery both reveal your true presence.

All: You are there, even beyond the grave. You are there in shining glory, overcoming death and welcoming us to life.

One: You meet us in the breaking of bread, you pour out the cup of salvation;

All: You feed us with grace, overwhelm us with love, and welcome us home. You are the brilliance of light, the abundance of love.

One: By your Spirit, make these gifts your body and your blood, make us salt and light and teach us to repent, resist injustice, and to whisper your hope that swells to shouts of praise.

All: By your Spirit, make us one with you and each other.

By your Spirit, make us strong that we might share your love with your blessed and broken world, ancient and new.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OVER ASHES (Unison)

All: From dust we came, to dust we shall return; and even yet, we sing "Alleluia" at the grave because death is not the end, only a sign of an impending resurrection. May these ashes tonight be for us a sign of our mortality, a desire for repentance, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

One: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

MUSIC DURING IMPOSITION

Variations on *Wondrous Love*

Daniel Pinkham

After you receive your ashes, you are invited to depart in silence and in peace.

Service adapted from Ash Wednesday resources of the Presbyterian Outlook Magazine

BLESSING THE DUST

All those days
you felt like dust,
like dirt, as if all you had to do
was turn your face
toward the wind
and be scattered
to the four corners

or swept away
by the smallest breath
as insubstantial—

did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?

This is the day
we freely say
we are scorched.

This is the hour
we are marked
by what has made it
through the burning.

This is the moment
we ask for the blessing
that lives within
the ancient ashes,
that makes its home
inside the soil of
this sacred earth.

So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.
Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less than we are

but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world is made
and the stars that blaze
in our bones
and the galaxies that spiral
inside the smudge we bear.

—Jan Richardson
from Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons