



SAMPSON'S MILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026

A Taizé Worship Service with the Imposition of Ashes

Prelude

Welcome and Introduction to the Service

Gathering Music *Sing, Praise, and Bless the Lord*
Sing, praise, and bless the Lord. Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.
Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!
(repeat)

The Call to Worship (Please stand.)

Liturgist: We gather in the name of the One who formed us from dust

People: And breathes into us the breath of life.

Liturgist: We come marked by frailty and failure,

People: Yet invited into mercy and restoration.

Liturgist: Just as God invites us to mercy, we invite God, too.

People: We open our hearts to let God impart.

Liturgist: Come, let us spend time fully inviting God into our lives.

People: Let us worship the God who continues to work through us.

Song *Bless the Lord, My Soul*
Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

Unison Prayer of the Day

Merciful God, You know us completely and love us fully. You see our failures, our wounds, and our wandering hearts; and still You call us back. On this Ash Wednesday, give us courage to let down our guard, to see our humanity, and to open our hearts to you. For it is only then that you can do your best work. Guide our lives, Lord. We are open and broken. We are yours to mold into better reflections of you. Through Christ, who restores our life. Amen.

Song *Come and Fill Our Hearts with Your Peace*
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our heart with your peace. Alleluia.

Scripture Readings

Psalm 51:1-17, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21, Psalm 139:23-24

Special Music

Touch Me With Ashes

Choir

Invitation to a Holy Lent

Friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life and faith in the paschal mystery. We will begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes – an invitation to confess our sins and fragility, trusting also in the abundance and assurance of God’s grace and promise to make beautiful things out of the dust.

I invite you, therefore, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.

Let us bow before God, our Creator and Redeemer and confess our sin.

Unison Prayer

Holy and compassionate God, we confess not to be condemned, but to be made whole. We confess the ways we resist Your love, the ways we harm one another, the ways we hide from truth. We confess hurried lives and distracted hearts. We confess harsh words and withhold kindness. We confess our fear of surrender and our reluctance to trust Your grace.

Silent Confession

Forgive us, renew us, and reshape us. Where sin has taken root, plant mercy. Where shame has grown, speak freedom. Where death has worked in us, bring life. We return to You now and welcome you into our hearts.

Amen.

Song

O, Lord Hear My Prayer

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.

When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.

Come and listen to me.

The Imposition of Ashes

All are invited forward to receive the Imposition of Ashes. Ashes are a reminder of our mortality and as a sign of repentance. Receive ashes on your forehead or hand before returning to your seat. Anyone unable to come forward may receive ashes where they are seated.

Closing Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Liturgist: God of mercy, we have been marked with ashes.

People: Not only with ashes, but with hope.

Liturgist: Let this sign remind us that surrender leads to freedom.

People: Truth leads to healing and confession leads to life.

Liturgist: Create in us clean hearts, O God

People: And renew right spirits within us.

Liturgist: Restore to us the joy of Your salvation.

People: And sustain us with willing spirits.

Liturgist: From honesty, bring healing.

People: From openness, bring growth.

Liturgist: Keep us walking the path of renewal through Jesus Christ who taught us to pray...

People: 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.

Sending Song

Jesus, Remember Me

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

You are invited to linger the sanctuary in song and silence for as long as you like. You may continue in prayer. When you are ready to leave, please leave in silence.