

WORSHIP FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

ASH WEDNESDAY

THE ASHES

PRELUDE

INTROIT “I Love You, Lord” GtG 627 verse 1

**I love you, Lord,
and I lift my voice
to worship you; O my soul, rejoice.
Take joy, my King,
in what you hear;
may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.**

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OPENING SENTENCES *(adaptation of Psalms 124 & 146)*

One: “Our Help is in the Name of the Lord”

All: “**Who made Heaven and Earth.**”

One: “Come, let us return to the Lord,”

All: “**for God is Gracious and Merciful, slow to anger,
and abounding in Steadfast Love.**”

***HYMN** “Just as I Am, without One Plea” GtG 442

**1. Just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou biddest me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

(continued...)

2. **Just as I am, though tossed about
with many-a conflict, many-a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**
3. **Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**
4. **Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

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COMMUNITY CONFESSION

“Gracious God, you created us from the dust and gave us life. Yet we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart, or our neighbors as ourselves. We cling to sin and are slow to forgive. We seek our own way and ignore the cries of the poor and the broken.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love. Create in us clean hearts, and put a new and right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

SILENT CONFESSION (*Confessions to the Cross*)

You are invited to bring your confessions to the wooden cross in front during this time.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

One: “We do not receive these ashes as a means of grace or a way to earn God’s favor. We receive them as a sign of our mortality and our repentance, and as a reminder that our hope is in Jesus Christ alone.”

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God Who is Faithful and Just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.”

All: “Thanks be to God.”

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

One: “Holy God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. As we hear the Scriptures read and proclaimed, send your Spirit to convict, comfort, and renew us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: AMEN.”

SCRIPTURE *Isaiah 58:1-12 (NKJV)*

One: “Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

All: Yet they seek Me daily, and delight to know My ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and did not forsake the ordinance of their God. They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching God.

One: Why have we fasted, *they say,* and You have not seen? *Why* have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice? “In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, and exploit all your laborers.

All: Indeed you fast for strife and debate, and to strike with the fist of wickedness. You will not fast as *you do* this day, to make your voice heard on high.

One: Is it a fast that I have chosen, a day for a man to afflict his soul? *Is it* to bow down his head like a bulrush, and to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the Lord?

All: “*Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke?*

One: *Is it* not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh?

All: Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, and your righteousness shall go before you; The Glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

One: Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.' "If you take away the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,

All: *If you* extend your soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul, Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, and your darkness shall *be* as the noonday.

One: The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

All: Those from among you, Shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; and you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.

MEDITATION: *Intentional Worship unto God - Reverend Paula Cooper*

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

One: We offer ourselves to God, unworthy as we are. We offer ourselves to God in humility and love, and in our desire to be faithful.

All: And Christ offers Himself to us in the Bread and Cup of this Sacrament.

One: With this Sacrament, we remember Jesus's Sacrifice on our behalf, and His obedience unto death.

All: In this Sacrament, we receive the promise of renewal and the forgiveness of our faithlessness, all through the Faithfulness of God.

One: For this is the Gracious Feast of God, prepared for the people of God.

All: The Sacrament of our Lord Jesus Christ in remembrance of His Last Supper with His disciples.

One: The invitation is to all who would heed His call to follow and obey.

All: The invitation is to all who yearn to know Him and to love Him.

Unison: The invitation is to you and to me.

One: So let us lift up our hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
One: Let us pray.

Unison: We thank you, O God, for Your Grace given to us in Your Son, Jesus Christ. By His Death, our sins are forgiven. Through His Resurrection, we are offered new life. In His Ministry, we are guided in the way we should go. Strengthen us through the offering of this Sacrament, that we might be nurtured and filled for the living of our days. Amen.

One: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took the Bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said,

All: **“Take, eat. This is My Body, which is broken for you. Do this in Remembrance of Me.”**

One: In the same manner, He took the Cup, saying,

All: **“This is the Cup of the New Covenant, sealed in My Blood. All of you, drink of it, doing this in Remembrance of Me.”**

One: For as often as you eat this Bread and Drink this Cup, you proclaim the Lord’s Death until He comes.

----- DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS -----

*(Please partake of each of the elements
as you are served,
celebrating Christ’s love for you,
offering your love to him.)*

SING: “More Love to Thee, O Christ” GtG 828

1. **More love to thee, O Christ,
more love to thee!
Hear thou the prayer I make
on bended knee.
This is my earnest plea:
more love, O Christ, to thee;
more love to thee,
more love to thee!**

(continued...)

2. **Once earthly joy I craved,
sought peace and rest.
Now thee alone I seek;
give what is best.
This all my prayer shall be:
more love, O Christ, to thee;
more love to thee,
more love to thee!**

3. **Then shall my latest breath
whisper thy praise;
this be the parting cry
my heart shall raise.
This still its prayer shall be:
more love, O Christ, to thee;
more love to thee,
more love to thee!**

1. **More love to thee, O Christ,
more love to thee!
Hear thou the prayer I make
on bended knee.
This is my earnest plea:
more love, O Christ, to thee;
more love to thee,
more love to thee!**

Words: Elizabeth Payson Prentiss, 1856

Music: William Howard Doane, 1870; *Public Domain*

One: Let us pray.

Unison: **We thank you, O God, for this Sacrament of Communion and Your Son Jesus Christ. Nourish us with these Gifts of Bread and Cup. Strengthen us by our Remembrance of Him and His Faithfulness. Transform us by His Presence among us. And hear the love song we share with You, as we give ourselves to You, O Lord, in gratitude for Your giving of Yourself to us. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” GtG 223

1. **When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.**
2. **Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.**
3. **See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**
4. **Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Words: Isaac Watts, 1707

Music: Lowell Mason, 1824

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: ...And let the gathered people of God say...

All: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE