

Prelude

"Jesus Paid It All"

arr. Shackley

Meditation

Rev. Andy Blackwelder

Lighting of the Altar Candles

\*Hymn 833

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

Welcome

\*Call to Worship

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

**And renew a right spirit within me.**

Do not cast me away from your presence.

**And do not take your holy spirit from me.**

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;

**A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

from Psalm 51

Ash Wednesday Reading: "Rend Your Heart" by Jan Richardson

\*Hymn 415

"Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"

Imposition of Ashes

*You are invited to come forward to receive ashes. You may ask that the ashes be placed on your hand instead of your forehead, if you so desire. The ashes remind us that, even though our body is mortal, our soul belongs to Jesus Christ.*

Prayer of Confession

**Help us, O Lord, to be honest with ourselves and with you. We come before you with hearts that long for healing and minds that seek meaning for our days. Examine us and all of our ways. Keep us from the self-delusions that overlook our sin and ignore our tendency to justify our impure thoughts and behaviors. Help us let go of our past, that we may turn toward you and live again the life of faith. Help us set aside our guilt and enter a season of healing. Release the grip of sin and death so that we might experience the joy of truly abundant life. (silent prayer)**

Prayer for the Lenten Journey

Hymn 544 (x3, third time acapella)

"Bless the Lord"

\*Benediction

\*Extinguishing the Altar Candles

\*Postlude      "Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed"

arr. Forrest

Assurance of Pardon

\*Hymn 435

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Scripture Reading

Joel 2:12-13 (p.832)

Rev. Dennis Slack

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (p. 883)

Friends, this is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## "Rend Your Heart" by Jan Richardson

To receive this blessing,  
all you have to do is let your heart break.  
Let it crack open.

Let it fall apart so that you can see its secret chambers,  
the hidden spaces where you have hesitated to go.

Your entire life is here, inscribed whole upon your heart's walls:  
every path taken or left behind,  
every face you turned toward or turned away,  
every word spoken in love or in rage,  
every line of your life you would prefer to leave in shadow,  
every story that shimmers with treasures known  
and those you have yet to find.

It could take you days to wander these rooms.  
Forty, at least.

And so let this be a season for wandering  
for trusting the breaking  
for tracing the tear that will return you

to the One who waits  
who watches  
who works within the rending  
to make your heart  
whole.

~~"Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the straps of  
the yoke, to let the  
oppressed go free,  
and to break  
every yoke?"~~  
Isaiah 58:6

**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 18, 2026 AT 6:00 PM**



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