



**CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*A Service of Worship and Reflection*

February 18, 2026

7:00 p.m.

***GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER***

PRELUDE

**“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”**  
Sanctuary Choir

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WORDS OF INVITATION

ANTHEM

**“Wondrous Love”**  
Sanctuary Choir

arr, John Jacob Niles

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul?  
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?  
To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,  
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.  
To God and to the Lamb who is the great "I AM,"  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Matthew 6:19-21

Pastor: We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins, aware of our frailty and our failings.

**People: We come seeking God's mercy, acknowledging our mortality.**

Pastor: Having received the waters of baptism, we are marked now with ashes.

**People: The treasures of this earth do not last; our treasure is in heaven, our heart's true home.**

## SONG

### "Here I Am to Worship"

Tim Hughes

Light of the World, You stepped down into darkness  
Opened my eyes, let me see beauty that made this heart adore You  
Hope of a life spent with You.

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, Oh so highly exalted  
Glorious in heaven above. Humbly You came to the earth You created  
All for love's sake became poor.

I'll never know how much it cost to see my sins up on that cross.

## REFLECTION AND OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 58:1-12

## LITANY OF PENITENCE

Pastor: Holy God, we confess to you and to one another that we have sinned, by our own fault, in our thoughts, our words, and our actions.

**People: Have mercy on us, O God.**

Pastor: We have not loved you or our neighbors with our whole hearts.

**People: Have mercy on us, O God.**

Pastor: We have failed to do justice and to love mercy and to live humbly.

**People: Have mercy on us, O God.**

Pastor: We have left many things undone that would bring justice and equality to the human community.

**People: Have mercy on us, O God.**

Pastor: We have despoiled the natural world that you created in beauty and rich diversity.

**People: Have mercy on us, O God.**

Pastor: We continually store up possessions as earthly treasure and neglect the true treasure that you offer.

**People: Have mercy on us, O God.**

Pastor: With honesty, we confess our pride, our envy of others, our anger, our self-indulgence, our contempt for those who differ from us.

**People: Have mercy on us, O God.**

Pastor: So we begin a journey through the wilderness of Lent with the marks of our human brokenness upon us. Accompany us on the way; forgive us as we stumble; encourage us as we learn the way of discipleship; bring us safely to the cross and the empty tomb.

Restore us to wholeness and embrace us in your steadfast love.

**People: Turn to us in your mercy, O God, and redeem us. Amen.**

Your love is deep, Your love is high  
 Your love is long, Your love is wide.  
 Your love is deep, Your love is high  
 Your love is long, Your love is wide.

Deeper than my view of grace, higher than this resting place,  
 Longer than this road I travel, wider than this gap You filled

Your love is deep, Your love is high  
 Your love is long, Your love is wide.  
 Your love is deep, Your love is high  
 Your love is long, Your love is wide.

Deeper than my view of grace, higher than this resting place,  
 Longer than this road I travel, wider than this gap You filled

Who shall separate us?  
 Who shall separate us from Your love?  
 Nothing can separate us.  
 Nothing can separate us from Your love.

Your love is deep, Your love is high  
 Your love is long, Your love is wide.  
 Your love is deep, Your love is high  
 Your love is long, Your love is wide.

## REFLECTION AND RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 51:1-17

**Pastor:** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

**People:** **For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**

**Pastor:** Indeed, I am guilty. But you desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be brighter than new-fallen snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

**People:** **Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.**

**Pastor:** Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance. Open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

**People:** **For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

SONG OF RESPONSE

**“Create in Me a Clean Heart”**

Keith Green

Create in me a clean heart, O God  
And renew a right spirit within me  
Create in me a clean heart, O God  
And renew a right spirit within me

Cast me not away from thy presence, O Lord  
Take not thy Holy Spirit from me  
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation  
And renew a right spirit within me.

***INVITATION TO OBSERVE THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE***

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: Jesus, remember us when you come into your kingdom. Your kingdom come,

**People: your will be done.**

*Silence*

Pastor: For your church around the world, we ask new life. Your kingdom come,

**People: your will be done.**

**Song: *Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.***

***Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart!***

Pastor: For all who carry out ministries in your church, we ask grace and wisdom. Your kingdom come,

**People: your will be done.**

*Silence*

Pastor: For people who have accepted spiritual disciplines, we ask inspired discipleship. Your kingdom come,

**People: your will be done.**

**Song: *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise.***

***All my hope comes from God.***

***The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise.***

***God, the wellspring of life.***

Pastor: For Christians in every land, we ask a new unity in your name. Your kingdom come,

**People: your will be done.**

*Silence*

Pastor: For Jews, Muslims, and people of other faiths, we ask your divine blessing. Your kingdom come,

**People: your will be done.**

*Silence*

Pastor: For those who cannot believe, we ask your faithful love. Your kingdom come,

**People: your will be done.**

**Song: *Lord, have mercy upon us.***

***Christ, have mercy upon us.***

***Lord, have mercy upon us.***

Pastor: For governors and rulers of every land, we ask your guidance. Your kingdom come,

**People: your will be done.**

*Silence*

Pastor: For people who suffer and sorrow, we ask your healing peace. Your kingdom come,  
**People: your will be done.**

*Silence*

Pastor: God of love, as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us, so may we give ourselves to you, living according to your holy will. Keep our feet firmly in the way where Christ leads us; make our mouths speak the truth that Christ teaches us; fill our bodies with the life that is Christ within us. In his holy name we pray.

**People: Amen.**

SONG

**“Bless the Lord, My Soul”**

Taizé Community

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God’s holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

REFLECTION AND GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 6:1-6, 16,21

SONG

**“Return to God”**

Marty Haugen

Return to God with all your heart,  
The Source of grace and mercy;  
Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.  
Now the time of grace has come, the day of salvation;  
Come and learn now the way of our God.  
Return to God with all your heart,  
The Source of grace and mercy;  
Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.  
I will take your heart of stone and place a heart within you,  
A heart of compassion and love.  
Return to God with all your heart,  
The Source of grace and mercy;  
Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.  
If you break the chains of oppression,  
If you set the prisoner free;  
If you share your bread with the hungry,  
Give protection to the lost; give a shelter to the homeless,  
Clothe the naked in your midst,  
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn.  
Return to God with all your heart,  
The Source of grace and mercy;  
Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.

REFLECTION AND EPISTLE LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

## THE BLESSING OF ASHES

**Unison: Bless, O God, these ashes and those who receive them. Let them be for us a reminder of our mortality, a call to sincere repentance, and a testimony to your abundant mercy in Jesus Christ. Amen and amen.**

## WORDS OF INVITATION AND INSTITUTION

### THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

*If you are worshiping via live stream, place a plate with bread or crackers in your home worship space. Beside it set a cup with juice, wine, water, or other common beverage.*

*With these elements we celebrate the shared presence of Christ that connects and nourishes our communion of faith.*

*If you are worshiping in person, please come down the center aisle for the Imposition of Ashes and then choose to:*

*take a piece of bread from a tray and dip it into the chalice*

*OR take the bread from a tray and take an individual cup.*

*Return to your seat using the side aisles.*

*Pastors and servers will bring ashes and communion elements to the seats of those who cannot come forward.*

## COMMUNION SONG

### “Consuming Fire”

Tim Hughes

There must be more than this;  
O, breath of God, come breathe within;  
There must be more than this.  
Spirit of God, we wait for you;  
Fill us anew, we pray. Fill us anew, we pray;  
Consuming fire, fan into flame  
A passion for Your name;  
Spirit of God, fall in this place.  
Lord, have your way,  
Lord, have your way with us.  
Come like a rushing wind,  
Fill us with power from on high.  
Now set the captives free,  
Leave us abandoned to Your praise.  
Lord, let your glory fall.  
Lord, let your glory fall.  
Consuming fire, fan into flame  
A passion for Your name;  
Spirit of God, fall in this place.  
Lord, have your way,  
Lord, have your way with us.

## SILENT REFLECTION

CLOSING SONG

**“Lead Me to the Cross”**

Brooke Ligertwood

Savior, I come, quiet my soul,  
Remember redemption's hill  
Where Your blood was spilled for my ransom.  
Everything I once held dear, I count it all as loss.  
Lead me to the cross where Your love poured out.  
Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down;  
Rid me of myself; I belong to you.  
Lead me, lead me to the cross.  
You were as I, tempted and tried,  
You are the Word became flesh,  
Bore my sin and death. Now You're risen  
Everything I once held dear, I count it all as loss.  
Lead me to the cross where Your love poured out.  
Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down;  
Rid me of myself; I belong to you.  
Lead me, lead me to the cross.

**BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**

Please depart in silence

\* Please rise in body or in spirit.

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**Service Participants:**

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

Pastor Ivan N. Herman

Dave Studer, Guest Choir Director

Trina Spivack, Piano

Jenny DeVries, Guitar and Vocal

Tara Calderon, Vocal

## **WELCOME TO ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP**

This worship service introduces us to the season of Lent, the 40 days leading up to Easter. Lent traditionally begins on Ash Wednesday, so named because of the ancient practice of wearing ashes as a sign of humility and repentance. This practice was employed by Christians to signify total dependence on God.

**The Imposition of Ashes** is the actual marking on the forehead in the form of a cross with ashes that come from the burning of palms used on the previous Palm Sunday.

**The Lord's Supper** will be celebrated tonight after receiving the imposition of ashes. Proceed down the center aisle to receive your ashes, partake of the Communion elements, and return to your seat using the side aisles.

**The Taizé Service** is a unique style of worship which includes periods of silence broken by brief readings of scripture and the singing of a certain style of music. Taizé music, largely written by members of the Taizé community, involves the use of simple, brief texts sung repetitively as a meditation. Taizé worship services are best when periods of silence are spent in meditation, reflection, contemplation, and prayer.

**The Liturgical Color of Purple** in our sanctuary is a visual reminder that we are now in the season of Lent. Lent is a journey which leads us to Jesus' final days, his death, and finally on Easter morning, his resurrection. May the traditional Lenten colors serve as a reminder that we are to observe a holy Lent through self-examination, penitence, prayer, works of love, and reading/meditating on the Word of God.

***Childcare is available in Room 102.***

