

## The Order of Worship for Ash Wednesday

*The Imposition of Ashes*

February 18, 2026

### GATHERING & WORD

PRELUDE

Josh Stevenson

WELCOME

Rev. Eric J. Shafer

\*HYMN #2138 (TFWS)

*“Sunday’s Palms are Wednesday’s Ashes”*

FIRST LESSON

Joel 2:12-17, 28-29

Andy Bucke, Director of Congregational Care

A PRAYER *for the PATH*

**God of all souls who have ever traveled the way of life,  
you know the depth of ache we sometimes feel on the journey.  
We come seeking your guidance, as we consider the paths and directions of our lives.  
Help us to find our way back to you, to choose to turn towards you,  
as the Ultimate Companion on The Way. Amen.**

\*HYMN #127

*“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”*

MESSAGE

*“The Way Back”*

ANTHEM

*“The Way with Poor Wayfaring Stranger”*

by Liz Stevenson

Chancel Choir

A RITUAL *for GETTING OUT of OUR OWN WAY*

Dear God,

**This night help me feel as though I am kneeling with the saints of all ages,  
who discovered that it is only through  
honest confession of sin to you  
that one can become more than a sinner.**

**My eyes see beyond my innocence,  
so I know that yours do too.  
Your mercy encourages.  
Your forgiveness cleanses.  
Your love saves.**

**May these forty days until Easter  
be a season in which**

**I keep my promises to you,  
through Christ our Savior.  
Amen.**

A BRIEF TIME *of* SILENT CONTEMPLATION

A PSALM *of* CONFESSiON (*read responsively*)

Psalm 51:1-17 (UMH 785)

ABSOLUTION

AN INVITATION *to the* OBSERVANCE *of* LENTEN DISCIPLiNE

IMPOSITION *of* ASHES

*Come forward to receive ashes on your forehead or on your hand*

PRESENTATION *of* OUR LIVES *and* OFFERINGS

\*DOXOLOGY #95

\*PRAYER *of* DEDICATION

\*THE LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN #396 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

### **THE SENDING FORTH**

\*DISMISSAL *with* BLESSiNG

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Walk By Faith" (*refrain*)

*"Well, I will walk by faith  
Even when I cannot see  
Because this broken road  
Prepares your will for me"*

POSTLUDE

Josh Stevenson

