

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

7:00 p.m.

CHIMES

PRELUDE “If You But Trust in God to Guide You” Gerald Peterson

WELCOME / INVITATION TO LENT Rev. Dr. Stephen D. Adkison

INTROIT “Lord Jesus, Think on Me” William Daman

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

People: We remember, O God, that our lives are brief and fragile.

Leader: Our days are like mist — here for a moment, then gone.

People: Teach us to live wisely in the time we are given.

Leader: We make our plans and speak of tomorrow.

People: Yet we do not know what tomorrow will bring.

Leader: All our breath is borrowed from You.

People: And to You our breath shall return.

Leader: Tonight we stand in holy honesty.

People: Mortal, dependent, and deeply loved.

Leader: Let us worship the One who formed us from dust.

People: And who receives us again in mercy and grace.

***HYMN** “If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee” No. 816

INVITATION TO RENEWAL

And so we live our lives imperfectly, for we are flawed. But we are also loved by the God in whose Image we were created. Let us remake ourselves toward that Image as we make our confession before God and each other.

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Eternal God, You formed us from the dust of the earth and breathed into us the breath of life.

We confess that we often live as though we were permanent —as though tomorrow were guaranteed, as though our plans were certain, as though our lives belonged to us alone.

Forgive our arrogance. Forgive our forgetfulness. Forgive the ways we waste the gift of breath.

Teach us to number our days so that we may live with wisdom. Teach us to walk humbly, to love generously, to forgive quickly, and to act justly while we have time.

When we are tempted to delay compassion, remind us that life is short. When we cling to resentment, remind us that we are dust. When we boast about tomorrow, remind us that our breath rests in You.

As we receive these ashes, renew in us a living awareness of what matters most.

May the truth of our mortality awaken in us a deeper love —for You, for one another, and for the fragile world You have entrusted to us.

For we are dust, and to dust we shall return —and in life and in death, we belong to You. In the name of Christ, we pray, Amen.

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Psalm 103:12; Micah 7:19)

As far as the east is from the west, so have our sins been separated from us. They have been thrown into the sea of forgetfulness, and there, they are remembered no more.

Our thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen and Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Genesis 3:19; James 4:13-17

RESPONSE May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart, be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. (Ps. 19:14)
Thanks be to God!

HOMILY “Memento Mori” Rev. Stephen D. Adkison

ANTHEM “Lenten Meditation” Jay Althouse

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

You are invited to come forward and receive the sign of the cross to remember that you belong to God in life and in death. You may either receive the sign upon your forehead or the back of your hand. After receiving the ashes, you may return to your seat.

ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

***CLOSING HYMN** “More Love to Thee, O Christ” No. 828

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Adkison

May the God of Peace

Make you holy in every way

And keep your whole being--

Mind, body, and soul--

Free from every fault

At the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

CHORAL BENEDICTION “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight” Samuel MacFarland

POSTLUDE “Toccata in E minor” Johann Pachelbel

* Please stand if able

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

Scripture Reading

Genesis 3:19 (NIV)

By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return.

James 4:13-19 (NIV)

Boasting About Tomorrow

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Shelter Island Presbyterian Church



“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Repent, and believe the Gospel”