



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
FEBRUARY 18, 2026 | 7PM

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Prelude

* Call to Worship

Gail Arnold, liturgist

(congregation please read bold type)

The Living God formed humans from the dust of the ground.

God breathed life into us and we became living beings.

Made from the dust, but filled with the Spirit,

We gather together for worship in community.

Let us proclaim God's goodness to all creation.

Our stories will tell of God's love and justice.

Let us worship the Living God.

Adapted from Illustrated Ministry

* Hymn #814

In God Alone

In God alone my soul can find rest and peace,

in God my peace and joy.

Only in God my soul can find its rest,

find its rest and peace.

Call to Confession

* *You are invited to stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession

**Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.
We have many treasures on earth that we hold too dearly;
That we withhold from others in need.
When we sin against neighbor, condone injustice,
And quarrel with one another, we sin against you.
Forgive us, we pray, for we are broken in spirit.
Do not see us for our faults,
And do not go away from us.
Keep us always in your presence
So that we may be restored to the joy of your salvation.
Sustain in us a willing spirit to treasure what you desire;
Then our hearts will be opened in joy and gladness.
In Jesus Christ, our Treasure, we pray. Amen.**

From Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year A

Sung Response

Lord Have Mercy

by Steve Merkel

**Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy on me.**

Assurance of Grace

*According to God's steadfast love,
According to God's abundant mercy,
God creates in us clean hearts, and gives a new and right spirit.
In the grace of Jesus Christ, we return to God forgiven.
Praise God for our salvation!*

Poetry Reading

All those days
you felt like dust,
like dirt,
as if all you had to do
was turn your face
toward the wind
and be scattered
to the four corners

or swept away
by the smallest breath
as insubstantial—

Did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?

This is the day
we freely say
we are scorched.

“Blessing the Dust”

This is the hour
we are marked
by what has made it
through the burning.

This is the moment
we ask for the blessing
that lives within
the ancient ashes,
that makes its home
inside the soil of
this sacred earth.

So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.
Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less
than we are

by Jan Richardson

but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made,
and the stars that blaze
in our bones,
and the galaxies that spiral
inside the smudge
we bear.

Anthem

*O Lamb of God
Most Holy*

by Penny Rodriguez

Westminster Choir

O Lamb of God, most holy,
Who on the cross did suffer,
And patient still and lowly
Thyself to scorn did offer.

Have mercy on us, Jesus.
Kyrie Eleison.

Have mercy on us, Jesus.
Kyrie, Kyrie Eleison.

O Lamb of God, most holy,
Who on the cross did suffer.
Our sins by Thee were taken
Or hope had us forsaken.

Have mercy on us, Jesus.
Kyrie Eleison.

Have mercy on us, Jesus.
Kyrie, Kyrie Eleison.

A Moment to Wonder

Children are invited to come forward for a short lesson on the chancel steps.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 6:1-4, 16-21

* Hymn #654

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.**

Prayer

Imposition of Ashes

*All are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes.
In sharing this ancient rite, we recall Genesis 3:19,
"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

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.**

* Hymn #686

God of Our Life

SANDON

* Benediction

Psalm 103:8-18

* Dismissal

And let all God's people say:

Go with us God.

*Worshippers are invited to depart in silence or remain as long as you desire
for continued meditation and prayer.*

