



# HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*Pastor: Randy Harris*

*Associate Pastor: Debbie Layman*

*Associate Pastor: Courtney Stevens*

*Pastor Emeritus: Steve McCutchan*

*Director of Christian Education: Heather Ferguson*

*Director of Music: Chris Gilliam*

*Organist: Susan Bates*

*Music Associate: Haley Chapman*

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Winston-Salem, NC 27103-2012

**FEBRUARY 18, 2026 • ASH WEDNESDAY**

# ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

7:00 p.m.

*Please prepare for worship in silence.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP (from Joel 2:1)

One: Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sound the alarm upon the holy mountain!

All: **Let everyone tremble, for the day of the Lord is near.**

## PRAYER

(\* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, you are invited to rise in body or spirit.

### \*HYMN 213

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

RATHBUN

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 58:1-12

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### ANTHEM

*God Is Seen*

Alice Parker

Chancel Choir

Through all the world below God is seen all around, search hills and valleys through, there He's found. The growing of the corn, the lily and the thorn, the pleasant and forlorn, all declare God is there; in meadows dressed in green, God is seen. See springing waters rise, fountains flow, rivers run, the mist that veils the sky hides the sun. Then down the rain doth pour, the ocean, it doth roar and beat upon the shore, and all praise, in their ways, the God who ne'er declines His designs. The sun with all his rays speaks of God as he flies, the comet in her blaze "God," she cries; the shining of the stars, the moon, when she appears, His awful name declares; see them fly through the sky and join the solemn sound all around.

### NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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### \*HYMN 544

*Bless the Lord*

BLESS THE LORD (TAIZÉ)

(Sing the hymn three times)

## INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**In life and in death we belong to God.**

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death**

can separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### LITANY OF CONFESSION

**All:** Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another,  
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,  
that we have sinned by our own fault  
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.

One: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and  
strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

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

One: We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us.  
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.  
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

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

One: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness:  
the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

**All:** we confess to you, O God.

One: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways  
and our exploitation of other people,

**All:** we confess to you, O God.

One: Our anger at our own frustration and our envy  
of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**All:** we confess to you, O God.

One: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,  
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**All:** we confess to you, O God.

One: Our negligence in prayer and worship,  
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**All:** we confess to you, O God.

One: Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done.  
For our neglect of human need and suffering  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**All:** accept our repentance, O God.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession. Acknowledging that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory, we repent and return to our loving creator. Acutely aware of our failure and frailty, we express our utter reliance on God's saving grace.  
*✠ The Book of Common Worship*

Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance, sorrow, and sacrifice.

One: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

**All: accept our repentance, O God.**

One: For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**All: accept our repentance, O God.**

One: Restore us, O God,

**All: and let your anger depart from us.**

One: Favorably hear us, O God,

**All: for your mercy is great. Amen.**

#### CEREMONY OF ASHES

*During the imposition of ashes, the ministers will say  
"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

*Congregants may reply,  
"In life and in death, I belong to God," or may remain silent.*

*During the ceremony, while seated, please join  
in singing Hymns 215 and 216.*

#### PRAYER

\* **HYMN 223**                      *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

HAMBURG

#### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

One: May the work of God's salvation be accomplished in us,

**All: that we may show forth God's glory in the world.**

One: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

**All: may God bring us with all the saints  
to the joy of Christ's resurrection.**

One: The blessing of God who hears when we call,

**All: the grace of Christ who reconciles us,**

One: and the power of the Holy Spirit who sustains us,  
remain with us in these Lenten days,

**All: and for all our days, and forevermore. Amen.**

*Worshippers are asked to depart quietly.*