

KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
ASH WEDNESDAY MIDDAY PRAYER SERVICE
FEBRUARY 18, 2026



ASH WEDNESDAY MIDDAY PRAYER SERVICE & IMPOSITION OF ASHES

12:00 p.m.; Sanctuary

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

OPENING SENTENCES

Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed

Seek the Lord while he still may be found
For God is gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed

Almighty and everlasting God,
You hate nothing you have made
And forgive the sins of all who are penitent.
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts
That we may truly repent
And receive your mercy and peace;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE 471

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

HEAR MY PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Rev. Jasmine Smart

SUNG RESPONSE 471

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

HEAR MY PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 51:1-12

Rev. Jasmine Smart

SUNG RESPONSE 227

Jesus, Remember Me

JESUS REMEMBER ME

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed

Most holy and merciful God,
We confess that we have sinned against you
In thought, word, and deed,
By what we have done
And by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart,
Nor loved our neighbors as ourselves.
Have mercy on us, O God.
Create in us clean hearts,
And renew a right spirit within us,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

John Merbecke



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us; Christ, have mer-cy up-on us; Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Rev. Jasmine Smart

MOMENT OF SILENCE

MEDITATION

Praying with Jesus: Forgive

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENT

Rev. Dr. Philip J. Reed

Dear friends in Christ,
Lent is a season of repentance and renewal,
A time to return to the Lord with all our hearts,
Through prayer, fasting, and self examination,
And by meditating on God's Holy Word.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who wish may come forward to receive ashes on their foreheads or hands.

Words used at the Imposition:

*Remember that you are dust,
And to dust you shall return.*

You may respond with... **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER AFTER IMPOSITION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Jasmine Smart

Gracious God,
You have marked us with the sign of our mortality
And claimed us again by your mercy.
Walk with us through these forty days,
That repentance may lead to renewal,
And the cross may lead us to life;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray saying:
**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.**

BLESSING AND CHARGE

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

POSTLUDE

The congregation departs in silence.

TITHES AND OFFERING

Your offering for the Kirk's ministry will be received as you leave worship. Our giving is an offering to God. All offerings are part of our worship of God and are used to support the Kirk's ministry. Text "KITH" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.

Today's Music: David Enos, organist; Todd Galloway, soloist



Praying With Jesus

Welcome to Kirk in the Hills. Whether you are deeply rooted in this congregation or simply exploring faith, we are honored that you are here tonight. Lent begins in humility—with ashes, silence, and the steady reminder that we are dust, yet beloved.

In *Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21*, Jesus speaks plainly: “When you pray...” He does not say *if*. And yet prayer is often one of the most perplexing aspects of Christian life. We question its purpose. We wrestle with distraction. We fear we are doing it wrong. We long for evidence that it matters.

Lent invites us to bring those struggles into the light. The disciples themselves needed instruction. Prayer is not performance. It is not a spiritual achievement. It is a relationship—life with the Father made possible through the Son and animated by the Spirit.

Over the coming weeks, we will learn to pray by watching Jesus pray. In solitude and in crowds. In gratitude and in grief. In clarity and in agony. In each moment, prayer anchors him in divine love and strengthens him for faithful obedience. What it did in him, it promises to do in us.

The hope of this season is simple and profound: through prayer, the living presence, power, and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ are not distant ideals but present realities. We begin in ashes. We walk toward resurrection. And along the way, we learn to pray.

Upcoming Sundays in Lent

March 1 – “Prayer in the Wilderness” – Matthew 4:1–11

March 8 – “Teach Us to Pray” – Luke 11:1–13

March 15 – “When You Pray: The Lord’s Prayer” – Matthew 6:7–15

March 22 – “Prayer and Compassion” – Mark 1:29–39

March 29 – “Prayer in Suffering” – Luke 22:39–46

April 5 – “That They May Be One” – John 17:20–26

If you are seeking, questioning, or beginning again, you are welcome here. Let us walk these forty days together.

In Christ,

Sr. Pastor | Head of Staff | Kirk in the Hills