



Trinity United Methodist Church

February 18, 2026

McLean, VA

Ash Wednesday

7 p.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Music *I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ* (Bach) Jerry Rich

*Call to Worship *from Psalm 103, Isaiah 35*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me.

Bless the Lord, O my soul; forget not all God's benefits!

For God forgives our sins, and heals our infirmities.

Then the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad!

The desert shall rejoice, and blossom with delight and with singing.

Waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

Burning sands shall become a pool, and thirsty ground, springs of water!

A highway shall be there, the Holy Way, and the ransomed of the Lord shall return,

singing with everlasting joy upon their heads, while sorrow and sighing flee away.

*Opening Hymn *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* UMH 269

Opening Prayer

Most Holy God,

You sent your Son to be baptized by John in the River Jordan,
and immediately after, your Spirit propelled him into the wilderness

where he was tested for forty days, experiencing the pain and frailty of our humanity.

There you prepared him for the work of our redemption from the power of sin and death.

As we enter this season of repentance, we ask for the gift of renewed and honest hearts,

**the courage to renounce any false story we are tempted to embrace,
and the healing power of his mercy and love.**

Praise you that these are Christ's to give, and ours to receive. Amen.

Anthem *Thou Knowest, Lord* (Purcell) Choir

Scripture Reading Mark 1:9-13

Meditation *The View from the Wilderness* Rev. Dave Rochford

Anthem *O God, Be Merciful* (Weckerlin) Choir

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

Thanksgiving over the Ashes

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

The congregation is invited to come forward to receive the mark of ashes. You are invited to join the Choir in singing "Jesus, Remember Me," UMH #488.

Prayer of Confession (based on Psalm 51)

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions.

Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin! For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us.

Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

Hide your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities.

Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us.

Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit.

For you will not delight in sacrifice, or we would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

Our sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

(a time of silence follows)

*Hymn	<i>Lord, Who throughout these Forty Days</i>	UMH 269
*Benediction		
*Postlude	<i>Fugue in F Minor (Burney)</i>	Jerry Rich

"Lent"

...is the season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday before Easter. Lent for many centuries has been a time for Christians to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' resurrection by reflecting on the high cost of his self-sacrifice for us. Many choose to study the Bible, to fast or otherwise refrain from other ordinary habits and comforts, and to pray each day during this preparatory season.

