



To all who are weary and need rest,
To all who mourn and need comfort,
To all who are lonely and need friendship,
To all who are complacent and need disturbing,
To all who sin and need a savior,
To all who are glad and would serve,
This church opens wide its doors.

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

OPENING WORDS

Rev. Jana Dye
Pastor

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
God's mercy endures forever.

PRELUDE

"Evensong"

Laura Bergquist

CALL TO WORSHIP

The season of Lent calls us to journey along the edge,
to anticipate that final trip to Jerusalem.
Lent calls us to the cutting edge,
when the wheat falls to the ground
and new life comes forth.
Lent not only calls us to give up something,
but also invites us to participate in the mystery of God-with-us.

**By your grace, call us from grief into gladness, despair into hope,
From estrangement into right relations with each other.**

PRAYER

Rev. Tiffany Triplett Henkel

HYMN

"Softly and Tenderly"

Chalice 340

SCRIPTURE

Luke 14:15-24

Chirsaleen Ciro

INVITATION TO THE ASHES

Rev. Jana Dye

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, you invite us
deeper into faith,
deeper into relationship,
and deeper into community.
You invite us to your table,
but we come up with excuses for why we can't attend.
**Forgive us for doubting the invitation,
and forgive us for doubting our worth.
Show us how to respond to you with confidence instead of hesitancy,
and joy instead of doubt.
With gratitude we pray, amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

No matter how many times we mess up,
no matter how many times we lose our way,
no matter how many times we decline God's invitation,
God will never stop inviting us to the table.
There is and always will be a seat saved for you.
So join me in these good news words:
**We are forgiven, again and again.
We are invited, again and again.
We are loved, from beginning to end.
Thanks be to God, our Inviter. Amen.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Metro Pastors

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please use the language and words most familiar to you or the version below.

**Our creator, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kin-dom 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.
Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kin-dom, the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

HYMN

“Just as I Am, Without One Plea”
(Verses 1, 2, 3)

Chalice 339

BENEDICTION

Rev. Jana Dye

Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.
Let the memory of your incomplete humanity
awaken you to the wonders, joys, sorrows, and pain of life.
Let the ashes you wear be the ashes of transformation;
of awakening to the beauty and love of seizing the moment
and living it to the fullest.
Let it be said of you that here in this little part of eternity
that you lived fully, loved extravagantly
and helped humanity evolve into all that God dreamed we can be!
You are fearfully and wonderfully made
In the image of God- who is and was, and ever more shall be
Amen.

POSTLUDE

“As the Deer”

Laura Bergquist

Service Notes

Cover art is “*There Is Still Room*” by Lauren Wright Pittman. Inspired by Luke 14:15-24 | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Prelude is by Laura Bergquist.

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“Softly and Tenderly” is by Will L. Thompson (words and music).

“Just as I Am, Without One Plea” is by Charlotte Elliot (words) and William B. Bradbury (music).

Benediction is written by Rev. Dawn Hutchings, and posted on pastordawn.com.

Postlude is by Martin Nostrum (words and music). Arranged by Laura Bergquist.

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