

FULLY ALIVE WITH THE PASSION OF CHRIST



Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.



South Highland
Presbyterian Church

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent: a time of penitence, fasting, and prayer, in preparation for the great feast of the resurrection.

The season of Lent began in the early days of the Church as a time of preparation for those seeking to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. The forty days refer to our Lord's time of fasting in the wilderness; and since Sundays are never fast days, Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten Fast.

Throughout the Old Testament, ashes are used as a sign of sorrow and repentance, and Christians have traditionally used ashes to indicate sorrow for our own sin, and as a reminder that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Like Adam and Eve, we have disobeyed and rebelled against God, and are under the same judgment, "you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).

But as we are marked with ashes in the same manner that we were signed with the Cross in Baptism, we are also reminded of the life we share in Jesus Christ, the second Adam (Romans 5:17, 6:4). It is in this sure hope that we begin the journey of these forty days, that by hearing and answering our Savior's call to repent, we may enter fully into the joyful celebration of his resurrection.

From The Book of Common Prayer (2019) by the Anglican Church in North America

CELEBRATION FOR THE LORD’S DAY

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

To all who are weary and need rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who fail and desire strength; to all who sin and need a Savior—this church opens wide her doors with a welcome from Jesus Christ, the friend of sinners.

ORGAN PRELUDE: “Olivet” Karl Osterland
Kenny Lewis, organ

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT Rev. Cort Gatliff

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful, were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. In this manner, the whole Congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need that all Christians continually have to renew our repentance and faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word.

***OPENING PRAYER** *(please stand if able)*

Let us now pray for grace, that we may faithfully keep this Lent.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy



1 Come ye sin ners, poor and nee - dy, Weak and woun ded,
2 Come, ye thir sty, - come and wel - come, God's free boun - ty -
3 Come ye wea - ry, - hea - vy - la - den, Lost and ru - ined
4 Let not cons - cience make you lin - ger, Nor of fit - ness



sick and sore; Je - sus read - y stands to save_ you,
glo - ri - fy; True be - lief_ and true re - pen - tance,
by the fall; If you tar - ry till you're bet - ter,
fond - ly dream; All the fit - ness He re - qui - reth

Chorus



Full of pi - ty, - love and pow'r.
Ev' - ry grace that_ brings you nigh. I will a-rise and_
You will ne - ver_ come at all.
Is to feel_ your need of Him.



go to Je - sus, He will em-brace me_ in His arms;



In the arms_ of my dear Sa - vior,



O there are_ ten_ thou - sand charms.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALTER LESSON Psalm 51
NT pg. 640

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” arr Richard Shephard

*Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with Thee to mourn our sins and close by Thee to stay.*

*As Thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,
to die to self, and chiefly live by Thy most holy Word.*

*And through these days of penitence, and through your Passiontide,
res, evermore, in life and death, Jesus, with us abide!*

HOMILY:

“The Acceptable Sacrifice” Rev. Abby Gatliff

*HYMN: #85 (blue)

“What Wondrous Love Is This” WONDROUS LOVE

*CONFESSION AND LITANY OF PENITENCE David Yancey

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Silence for individual confessions

Most holy and merciful Father,

**we confess to you, and to one another,
that we have sinned, through our own fault,
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, and mind, and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

**We have been deaf 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.**

Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned againse you.

For all our unfaithfulness and disobedience; for the pride, vanity,
and hypocrisy of our lives;
Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

For our self-pity and impatience, and our envy of those we think
more fortunate than ourselves;
Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

For our unrighteous anger, bitterness, and resentment; for all lies, gossip, and slander
against our neighbors;
Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

For our sexual impurity, our exploitation of other people, and our failure to give of
ourselves in love;
Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

For our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our intemperate pursuit of worldly goods
and comforts;
Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

For our dishonesty in daily life and work, our ingratitude for your gifts, and our failure
to heed your call.
Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty;

Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

For our wastefulness and misuse of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us;

Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

For all false judgments, for prejudice and contempt of others, and for all uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors;

Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

For our negligence in prayer and worship; for our presumption and abuse of your means of grace;

Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

For seeking the praise of others rather than the approval of God;

Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

For our failure to commend the faith that is in us;

Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

Show favor to your people, O Lord, who turn to you in weeping, fasting, and prayer. For you are a merciful God, full of compassion, long-suffering, and abounding in steadfast love. You spare when we deserve punishment, and in your wrath you remember mercy. Spare your people, good Lord, spare us; in the multitude of your mercies, look upon us and forgive us; through the merits and mediation of your blessed Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, desires not the death of sinners, but that they may turn from their wickedness and live. He has empowered and commanded his ministers to pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all who truly repent and genuinely believe his holy Gospel. For this reason, we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that our present deeds may please him, the rest of our lives may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him:

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2:1-2*

*HYMN: #87 (blue)

“The Glory of These Forty Days” ERHALT UNS, HERR

CLOSING PRAYER

O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart:
that desiring you, we may seek you;
and that seeking you, we may find you;
and that finding you, we may love you;
and that loving you, we may hate those sins from which you have delivered us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In observance of Lent, there will be no organ postlude.

JOIN US FOR SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS DURING LENT

Midweek During Lent

Wednesdays in Lent beginning February 25, we will gather at 6:00 p.m. in Davis Family Hall to explore the habits of grace that draw Christians into a deeper relationship with God. Childcare will be available. Supper will be available at 5:00; please reserve your spot online or by calling the church office at 205-933-0790 by Monday at noon.

March 29 – Palm Sunday

Celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem as he begins his journey to the cross. Our children's choir will help lead us in worship at the 11 o'clock service!

April 2 – Maundy Thursday

This powerful evening worship service will center around the Requiem by Gabriel Fauré. Following 5:00 p.m. supper in Davis Family Hall, we gather at 6:00 in the Sanctuary for worship including the celebration of communion. The service will also be streamed live on our website, on Facebook and YouTube.

April 3 – Good Friday Noon Worship

Jesus is nailed to the cross, is tormented, speaks his last words, and gives up his spirit. The curtain in the temple is ripped from ceiling to floor. Come to the Sanctuary, now stripped of its paraments, for this meaningful service, or watch it by livestream. Followed by lunch in Davis Family Hall.

April 4 – Easter Egg Hunt

Bring your kids, grandkids, and friends to Homewood's Overton Park from 10:00 a.m. til Noon for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! Bring a picnic lunch and stay for fellowship with your South Highland family.

April 5 – Easter Sunday

"He is risen! He is risen, indeed!" Easter Sunday sees the Sanctuary beautifully adorned with fine flowers and includes some of our most favorite hymns and celebratory music, including the "Hallelujah" chorus, as Christ's resurrection is celebrated. This year, we have added a sunrise service in the courtyard at 6:30 a.m. The 8:30 and 11:00 services this Sunday will be in the Sanctuary, with the 11:00 service available by livestream.

CHURCH STAFF

MINISTERIAL STAFF

Rev. Cort Gatliff
Senior Pastor

Rev. Abby Gatliff
Associate Pastor

Emily Knight
Asst. Minister for Discipleship

Ann Roth
Director of Children's Ministry

Kenny Lewis
*Director of Music Ministries,
Organist*

David Yancey
Pastoral Resident

ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT

Dina Glass
Executive Director of Administration & Finance

Alison Walker
Director, South Highland Center

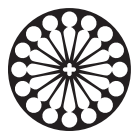
Jeannie Jones
Administrative Assistant to the Congregation

Allison Williams
Director, Child Development Center

John Heiser
Communication Coordinator

Eric Carey
Food Service Director

Joseph Riley and Edward Colbert
Sextons



**South Highland
Presbyterian Church**