



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

6:30 p.m.



To know Christ, to make Him known and to exhibit His love through worship, education and service.

WORDS OF PREPARATION

Whatever the gospel means, we tell ourselves it could not mean death. Love, divine or human, could never exact something so costly. —William Willimon

ORDER OF WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY

O Mensch, beweine deine Sünde groß, BWV 622
J. S. Bach

WELCOME

Rev. Mallory Hammond

INTROIT

Only Begotten Son of the Father
ROUEN

Only begotten, Word of God eternal, Lord of creation, merciful and mighty, hear now thy servants when their joyful voices rise to thy presence.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Gage Arnold

Leader: The Lord is your rock and your fortress and your deliver, your God, your rock, in whom you take refuge. Call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised.

All: In my distress I call upon the Lord; to my God I call. From your temple, O Lord, hear my voice and my cry.

Leader: Humble yourselves before God and seek him, for the hand of God is for good on all who seek him.

All: Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me.

*OPENING HYMN 166

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
ST. FLAVIAN

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Adrian Taylor

CALL TO CONFESSION | Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A's 88-90

Rev. Sara Hill

Genuine repentance involves two things: the dying-away of the old self and the coming-to-life of the new. The dying-away of the old self is to be genuinely sorry for sin, to hate it more and more, and to run away from it. The coming-to-life of the new self is wholehearted joy in God through Christ and a delight to do every kind of good as God wants us to. Together, as Christ's body, we now confess our sin and express our longing to live in joyful obedience to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION | Psalm 51:1-2, 6, 10-12

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;

All: According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Leader: Wash away all my iniquity

All: And cleanse me from my sin.

Leader: Surely you desire truth in the inner parts;

All: You teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

Leader: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

All: Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Leader: Restore to me the joy of your salvation

All: And grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Amen.

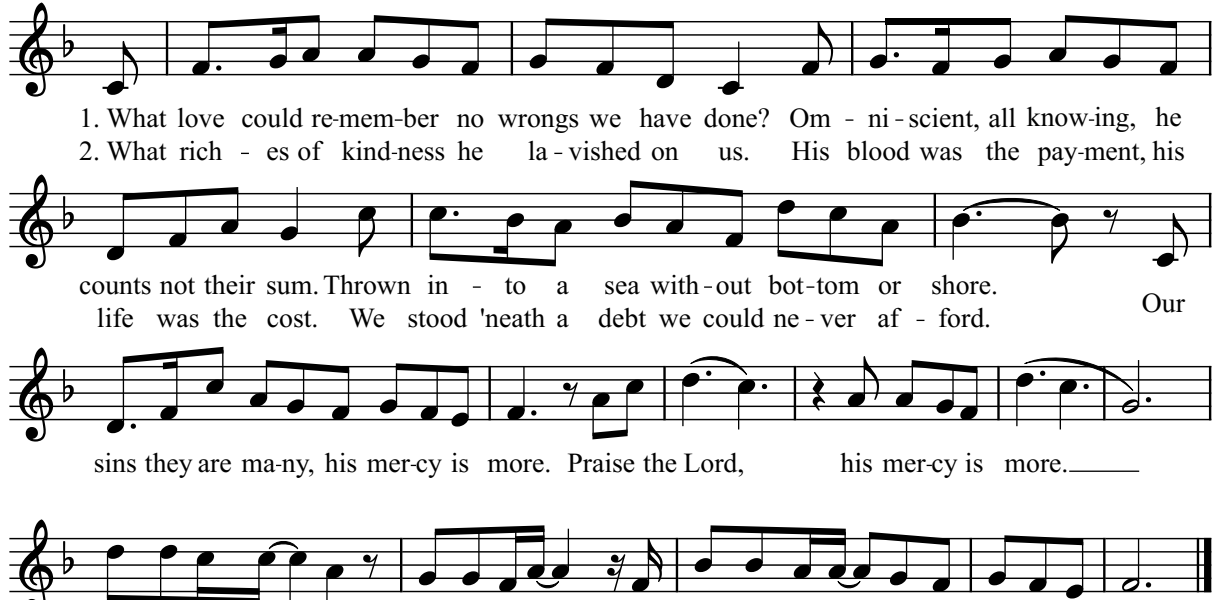
A moment for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give us contrite hearts. May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal us by his wounds. May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak words of pardon and peace.

*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

His Mercy Is More
Papa | Boswell



1. What love could re-mem-ber no wrongs we have done? Om - ni - scient, all know-ing, he
2. What rich - es of kind-ness he la - vished on us. His blood was the pay-ment, his
counts not their sum. Thrown in - to a sea with-out bot-tom or shore. Our
life was the cost. We stood 'neath a debt we could ne - ver af - ford.
sins they are ma-ny, his mer-cy is more. Praise the Lord, his mer-cy is more.____
Stron-ger than dark-ness, new ev'-ry morn; our sins they are ma - ny, his mer-cy is more.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON | Psalm 103:1-5; 13-18 (page 502)

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! ² Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, ³ who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, ⁴ who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, ⁵ who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

¹³ As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

¹⁴ For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. ¹⁵ As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; ¹⁶ for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. ¹⁷ But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, ¹⁸ to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATION

Beloved Dust

Dr. Darren Kennedy

As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. —Psalms 103:15-16 (NRSV)

ANTHEM

God So Loved the World
John Stainer

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

As you reflect on the Lord's goodness, you can make an offering by dropping your gift in the offering plate, texting "GIVE" to 707-475-3005, or donating online at fpcnashville.org.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Dr. Ryan Moore

Pastor: We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, calls us to heartfelt repentance, and urges us to place our hope in God alone.

All: **Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes remind us of our mortality and penitence and teach us again that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

PSALM

O God, You are My God; Eagerly I Seek You
Psalm 63

My soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water. Therefore, I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory. For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise. So I will bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name. My soul is content, as with fat and rich food, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips. When I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches, for you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. May those who seek my life to destroy it go down into the depths of the earth; let them fall upon the edge of the sword and let them be food for jackals. But the king will rejoice in God; all those who swear by him will be glad; for the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped.

*HYMN 735

I Need Thee Every Hour
Robert Lowry

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

** Those who are able, please stand.*

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, PhD – *Pastor*
Mallory Hammond, MDiv – *Parish Associate, Director of Ministry to Children and Their Families*
Darren Kennedy, PhD – *Associate Pastor for Discipleship*
Sara Hill, MDiv – *Parish Associate for Congregational Care*
Sandra Randleman, DMin – *Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Missions*
Adrian Taylor, MDiv – *Director of Missions Ministry*
Gage Arnold, MDiv – *Director of Youth Programming*
Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*
Joseph Fala, MM – *Assistant Director of Music and Organist*
Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*