

February 18, 2026
Ash Wednesday Service
10:00 AM

Prelude

Aria

(R.W. Jones)

Call to Worship

L: If God threw a party,

C: all would be invited.

L: If God hosted a dinner,

C: there'd be a seat saved for each of us.

L: If God prepared a banquet,

C: a cheer would go up when you arrived.

L: This is the good news:

C: God is throwing a party.

God is hosting a dinner.

God is preparing a banquet,

and all are invited.

L: Let us worship this invitational God.

Hymn NCH 185 "Savior, When in Tears and Dust"

Call to Confession

Family of faith, if someone declines our invitations again and again, in our human ways, we tend to stop inviting them. We get the hint. We assume they'd rather be elsewhere. With God, however, things are different. No matter how many times we overlook or ignore God's outstretched hand, God will never stop reaching for us. So with that good news in mind, let us go to God in prayer.

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 cling to the wall. We RSVP "Maybe." 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.

A moment of silence for reflection and prayer.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, 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.

Hymn NCH 188 "Give me a Clean Heart"

Luke 14:15-24

Meditation

Special Music: "*You Are My All In All*", Sandy Rowe, Soloist

Imposition of Ashes

Hymn NCH 187 "Again We Keep this Solemn Fast"

Benediction

Postlude

Sorrowful

(F. Byer)

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