

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
February 18, 2026
Ash Wednesday



Gathering As a People of God

At PCO we strive to be a faithful, open, and inclusive community. We welcome the full participation of all people of any age, ability, gender identity, race, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

Preparation: Lent is a season to prepare to celebrate our redemption through the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We begin this season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Tonight, you will be marked with ash and in the sign of a cross. This ancient sign and ritual speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, the truth of our impermanence and the need for Christ's love and light. The sign with which we are marked reveals our desire to live repentant lives, individually and as the gathered beloved community, and our hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Prelude

Andante Moderato
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Antonio Vivaldi

Welcome

Pastor Lisa Schrott

*** Call to Worship**

Bill Given, Liturgist

One: God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

All: God's love endures forever.

One: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

All: God's love endures forever.

One: God abides with us and teaches us to die to self and to live repentant lives.

All: God's love endures forever. We return, we remember, and we will listen well. Let us worship God.

*** Hymn #434**

Restore in Us, O God, vs. 1-4
[Baylor]

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: In the name of Christ, we are invited to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and self-emptying love with practices of prayer; with works of loving kindness and mercy; and by meditating on God's good Word, ancient and new. Before Christ, let us confess our sin, how it is with our life, and our lives together:

All: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, you are one who guards and guides our way. Have mercy upon us. To follow you is to trust you in paradox; that from a broken, aching heart, rises a healing and hopeful heart; that out of weakness and vulnerability, grows the quickening of Christ's Love; that in darkness and despair, the radiance of Christ's Light shines. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, we confess that we fail to follow you; we turn away. Forgive us, we pray. *Silent prayer.* Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: As certain as the morning sun that rises, you are here, Lord. We are grounded in the Source of All Being. This day. This Evening. Every Day.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

One: As a forgiven people, let us greet each other, sharing the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you. *Please greet your fellow worshippers in ways you feel comfortable.*

*** Response #447**

We Are Forgiven

447 **We Are Forgiven**

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C on the first staff; G, Am7, Dsus, D, G, Am on the second staff; and D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, D, G on the third staff. The lyrics are: 'We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.'

The Word

Prayer of Illumination

Bill Given, Liturgist

Gracious God, we pause for a moment, to pay attention to the gift of breath, which is as ancient as we are old, as new as this morning's dawn. (Pause)

By your Spirit, your Word is made new. In the hearing of Scripture, ancient and new, may we be inclined to speak the truth in loving kindness, obey the law of your love, and to keep your peace that passes all understanding. Amen.

Call to Repentance (based on Psalm 51:1-4a, 10-12, 15)

Bill Given, Liturgist

One: Have mercy on me O God in your great kindness: in the fullness of your mercy blot out my offences. Wash away all my guilt: and cleanse me from my sin.

All: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

One: For I acknowledge my faults: and my sin is always before me. Against you only have I sinned and done evil in your sight.

All: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

One: Create in me a clean heart O God: and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence: do not take your holy spirit from me.

All: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

One: Give me the joy of your help again: and strengthen me with a willing spirit. O Lord open my lips: and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

All: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Path to Repair

Isaiah 58:1-2, 9-12 & 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Meditation

The Path to Repair and Restoration: Repentance

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Special Music

Carol of the Hill
PCO Chancel Choir
Shelby Laird, director

Stephen Paulus

Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People

Bill Given, Liturgist

One: Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

in unison

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sent Out As a People of God

* Hymn

Dust and Ashes, vs. 1-3
[see insert]

Imposition of Ashes

Imposition of ashes is a way to express our need for God. It is not a sacrament or a requirement. If you so choose to have ashes imposed, you may indicate whether you wish the ashes placed on the back of your hand or your forehead. The ashes we are using this evening are from the palms we waved last Palm Sunday, which were prepared and burned by our youth.

Benediction

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Please depart in silence

*** Please rise in body or spirit**

The liturgy for Ash Wednesday is adapted from *The Presbyterian Outlook*, 2025; written by the Rev. Anne Apple. The Call to Repentance was written by the Rev. Bosco Peters and is found online at Re: Worship <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/02/litany-psalm-51.html>

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