



First Presbyterian Church Durango  
Ash Wednesday Worship (Imposition of Ashes)  
12:00pm, Feb 18, 2026

## Prelude

### \*Call to Worship (Psalm 51:10-12).

*"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.*

*Restore to me the joy of my salvation, and grant a willing spirit to sustain me."*

### \*Communal Prayer

*Leader: God's call rings out through the world, God's message to us.*

***People: God calls us to come back to fast and weep, and ask for forgiveness.***

*Leader: We need to change our entire lives, what is inside of us, not just outside.*

***People: For our God is loving and compassionate.***

*Leader: We enter this season of Preparation by returning to the LORD.*

***All: Together, let us sound the trumpet and worship God!***

### \*Hymn 215 GTG

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS?

### Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we bring our burdens and our sins to you, O Christ,**

**who bears the heavy load for us.**

**We place upon you our excuses, our shortcomings, our anger and our desire,**

**knowing that you can remove these sins from us and restore us to life.**

**Forgive us of our sins.**

**Help us to turn back to You.**

**Restore what has been broken, transform what has been twisted,**

**find what has been lost, so we may be the living, loving image of you in creation...**

### Moments of Silence

### Assurance of Pardon

**Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness. He will not always accuse; neither will he stay angry forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us for our iniquities.**

**People: In the name of Jesus the Beloved Son, we are forgiven.**

Reading

*Matthew 6:1-21*

Meditation

*John Welton, preacher*

Invitation to Observe a Lenten Discipline

*People of Jesus' Way: Every year at Easter we celebrate with joy our redemption and renewal through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The season of Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to make room in our lives for the Spirit of God to mysteriously renew us once again. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and our need for the love and forgiveness shown to us in Christ Jesus. Therefore, we are invited, in the name of Christ, to observe a season of Lent (forty days). Like Israel in the desert forty years, and like Jesus tempted and tested for forty days we are invited to a season of: self-examination, prayer and fasting, practicing works of love, and reading and reflecting on God's Holy Word.*

*Let us begin our Lenten journey together by confessing our own lives and hearts with these words:*

***Give up harsh words: use generous ones. Give up unhappiness: take up gratitude.***

***Give up anger: take up gentleness and patience.***

***Give up pessimism: take up hope and optimism.***

***Give up worrying: take up trust in God.***

***Give up complaining: value what you have.***

***Give up stress: take up prayer. Give up judging others: discover Jesus within them.***

***Give up sorrow and bitterness: fill your heart with joy. Give up selfishness: take up compassion for others. Give up being unforgiving: learn reconciliation.***

***Give up words: fill yourself with silence, and listen to others***

Prayer

*Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and remorse. A reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.***