

Service of Worship
February 18, 2026
Ash Wednesday

Matthew 6:21: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Welcome

Call to Worship

If God threw a party, all would be invited.

If God hosted a dinner, there'd be a seat saved for each of us.

If God prepared a banquet, a cheer would go up when you arrived.

This is the good news: God is throwing a party. God is hosting a dinner.

God is preparing a banquet, and all are invited.

Let us worship this invitational God.

Music: *Take My Life And Let It Be* – Reawaken Hymns

Scripture: Joel 2:1, 12-13

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.

Silent confession

In the name of Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Scripture: Luke 9:51-62

Music: *Lord, I Want To Be A Christian* - Moses Hogan Singers

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a table-setting God who always has a seat saved for you. We believe in an inviting God who leaves the porch light on and a hand extended. We believe in a radically welcoming God who eats with the overlooked and the outcast, the hungry and the downtrodden. We believe in the good news of the gospel, which reminds us that all are welcomed, all are celebrated, all are loved, and all are claimed. Pull up a seat at God's table. There is good news to be shared here. Amen.

Invitation to The Observance of the Lenten Discipline

Imposition of the Ashes

Scripture: Psalm 51:1-10, 17

Music: *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* – Jadon Lavik

Benediction Poem: *The Gospel According to Mrs. Farnell's Pre-K Class*

The Gospel According to Mrs. Farnell's Pre-K Class

In Pre-K the whole class gets an invite to Tommy's birthday.
He places the paper invites in our cubbies. There's a helter-skelter sticker sealing each one, proof that tiny hands did the work. So we, the members of Mrs. Farnell's Pre-K class arrive at the park on Saturday. We arrive whether or not we've ever built a sandcastle with Tommy. We arrive whether or not we've ever shared half of our PB&J at lunch. We arrive at the park on Saturday, with pigtails and balloons, because we were *invited*.
And together we play tag, and we eat birthday cake, and we run barefoot in the grass.
Together, we sing Happy birthday to youuuuuu, so excited we can barely stand still.
Together, we momentarily forget that Chloe never gets picked for Red Rover
and that Quinn cried in class last week,
because the park is not the playground and everyone was invited.
And when we load into our cars at the end of the day, with grass-stained knees, chocolate frosting on our faces, and the awareness of inclusion, we say to our parents,
This was the best day of my life.

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