

# First Methodist Church Chandler, Texas

Almighty God, maker of all things, judge of all people: We acknowledge before you all the ways we have sinned. By wrong thoughts, careless words, and by self-centered actions, we have hurt people and hurt you. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most Merciful Father. For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us; and grant that we may be empowered as you lead us in the way everlasting. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may we serve you in the newness of life, to the honor and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN.

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The congregation is invited to come to the altar and place their cards in the basket, then kneel at the altar to receive the ashes.

## THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Hymn: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"  
(vv 1, 2, 4)

UMH # 298



*A family of faith, united by grace, making a difference for Christ in our community and the world.*

## February 18, 2026

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Pastor Charles Jordan  
903-849-6839

507 N. Broad Street  
Chandler, Texas 75758

[www.firstchandler.org](http://www.firstchandler.org)

Welcome

Prelude

Patti Long

Hymn: "Lift High the Cross"

(vv 1, 3, 4)

UMH # 159

CALL TO WORSHIP (in unison)

O God, Maker of everything and judge of all that you have made,

From the dust of the earth, you have formed us

And from the dust of death, you would raise us up.

By the redemptive power of the cross,

Create in us clean hearts

And put within us a new spirit,

That we may repent of our sins

And lead lives worthy of your calling;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

(vv 1, 2, 3)

UMH # 297

Scripture: Psalm 51

Message: U-Turns

Pastor Charles Jordan

## Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: The early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church. In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

To make a right beginning of repentance, let us now reflect on our life before God. Spend the next few minutes in silent prayer and personal reflection.

Begin by praising God, acknowledging God's beauty and holiness, then in the stillness examine your life, think about your priorities and how you spend your time and take an honest look at your life before God.

Think of those aspects of your life that needs God's holy touch. Prayerfully consider those areas in your life where you have failed God, and write down your sins. Write down those things you want to get rid of, those things that are preventing you from growing stronger in the faith.

## Silent Confession and Pardon