



CHRIST
THE REDEEMER
-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
February 18, 2026

Welcome to CHRIST THE REDEEMER...

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Since the fourth century the Western church has observed the forty days before Easter (excluding Sundays) as a Lenten period of fasting and renewal that corresponds to Christ's forty-day fast (Matt 4:2)

The Lenten season has become a time of intentional penitence and renewal for Christians in anticipating of celebrating Jesus' death and resurrection on Easter Sunday. We begin this time by acknowledging our need for repentance and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The goal of Ash Wednesday worship is threefold: to meditate on our mortality, sinfulness, and need of a savior; to renew our commitment to daily repentance in the Lenten season and in all of life; and to remember with confidence and gratitude that Christ has conquered death and sin. These goals are filled with Gospel truth. It is a witness to the power and beauty of our union with Christ and to the daily dying and rising with Christ that this entails.

*Adapted from the Worship Sourcebook

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

[L] Our help is in the name of the LORD,

[P] **who made heaven and earth.**

[L] Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?

[P] **Hope in God; for we shall praise him,
our help and our God.**

from Psalm 42:5; 124:8

SONG

ABIDE WITH ME

Henry Francis Lyte and Justin Smith

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide:
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes:
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies:
heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee:
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Read by Neil Schenk

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 ESV

The Day of the Lord

2 Blow a trumpet in Zion;
 sound an alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the Lord is coming; it is near,
2 a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains
 a great and powerful people;

their like has never been before,
 nor will be again after them
 through the years of all generations.

Return to the Lord

12 “Yet even now,” declares the Lord,
 “return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
13 and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
Return to the Lord your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
 and he relents over disaster.
14 Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
 and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
 for the Lord your God?
15 Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶ gather the people.
Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the elders;
gather the children,
even nursing infants.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her chamber.
¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep
and say, “Spare your people, O Lord,
and make not your heritage a reproach,
a byword among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples,
‘Where is their God?’”

G O S P E L R E A D I N G

Read by Haylee Freeman

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 ESV

Giving to the Needy

6 “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

² “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

The Lord's Prayer

⁵ “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Fasting

¹⁶ “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Lay Up Treasures in Heaven

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Reader: The gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SONG

OUT OF THE DEPTHS

Bob Kauflin

Out of the depths, O Lord, I cry to you
 When I am tempted to despair
 Though I might fail to trust your promises
 You never fail to hear my prayer
 And if you judged my sin
 I'd never stand again
 But I see mercy in your hands

Chorus

So more than watchmen for the morning
 I will wait for you, my God
 When my fears come with no warning
 In your Word I'll put my trust
 When the harvest time is over
 And I still see no fruit
 I will wait, I will wait (for you)

The secret mysteries belong to you
 We only know what you reveal
 And all my questions that are unresolved
 Don't change the wisdom of your will
 In every trial and loss
 My hope is in the cross
 Where your compassions never fail

Chorus

So more than watchmen for the morning
 I will wait for you, my God
 When my fears come with no warning
 In your Word I'll put my trust
 When the harvest time is over
 And I still see no fruit
 I will wait, I will wait (for you)

HOMILY

Rev. Alden D. Groves
Associate Pastor

ASH WEDNESDAY: GONE WITH THE WIND

Psalm 103:8-19 ESV

- ⁸ The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- ⁹ He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
- ¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
- ¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
- ¹³ As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.
- ¹⁴ For he knows our frame;
he remembers that we are dust.
- ¹⁵ As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
- ¹⁶ for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.
- ¹⁷ But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who
fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,
- ¹⁸ to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.
- ¹⁹ The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Lent is a journey of deepening reflections and renewal, an opportunity to make new commitments in faith. We prepare for the journey by setting aside burdens that would weigh us down. Let us turn to God and confess our sin.

CONFESSION OF SIN

[All] **Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to you, and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned, through our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

[L] Lord, have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For all our unfaithfulness and disobedience; for the pride, vanity, and hypocrisy of our lives; Lord, have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For our self-pity and impatience, and our envy of those we think more fortunate than ourselves; Lord, have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For our unrighteous anger, bitterness, and resentment; for all lies, gossip, and slander against our neighbors; Lord, have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For our sexual impurity, our exploitation of other people, and our failure to give of ourselves in love; Lord, have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our intemperate pursuit of worldly goods and comforts; Lord, have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For our dishonesty in daily life and work, our ingratitude for your gifts, and our failure to heed your call; Lord, have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty; Lord have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For our wastefulness and misuse of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us; Lord have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For all false judgments, for prejudice and contempt of others, and for all uncharitable thought toward our neighbors; Lord, have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For our negligence in prayer and worship; for our presumption and abuse of your means of grace; Lord, have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For seeking the praise of others rather than the approval of God; Lord, have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For our failure to commend the faith that is in us; Lord, have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

Show favor to your people, O Lord, who turn to you in weeping, fasting, and prayer. For you are a merciful God, full of compassion, long-suffering, and abounding in steadfast love. You spare when we deserve punishment, and in your wrath, you remember mercy. Spare your people, good Lord, spare us; in the multitude of your mercies, look upon us and forgive us; through the merits and mediation of your blessed Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SILENCE & MEDITATION

SONG

HAVE MERCY

Sandra McCracken and Thad Cockrell

Have mercy on me
Have mercy on me
O Lord have mercy
O Lord have mercy

Oh help my unbelief
Oh help my unbelief
O Lord have mercy
O Lord have mercy

WORDS OF COMFORT

[L] Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[All] **Amen.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

[L] Almighty God, you have created us from the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be for us a symbol of our mortality and a sign of our penitence, that we may remember that it is by your grace alone that we receive the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

[P] **Amen.**

MUSICAL SELECTION

DUST TO DUST

Sarah Bailey

CLOSING PRAYER

[L] O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart: that desiring you, we may seek you; and that seeking you, we may find you; and that finding you, we may love you; and that loving you, we may hate those sins from which you have delivered us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[All] **Amen.**



CHRIST THE REDEEMER

—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—

Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church
longs to be a diverse people who gather around
and extend the table of God's grace.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:00 AM

Reverend Sean J.S. Roberts, Lead Pastor

E-mail: SRoberts@CTRPortland.org
Tel. 956.207.1398

Reverend Alden D. Groves, Associate Pastor

E-mail: AGroves@CTRPortland.org
Tel. 215.704.0132

**Kendra Hollen,
Music Ministry Director**

[E-Mail: khollen@CTRPortland.org]

**Amanda McKrell,
Director of Community Development**

[E-mail: amckrell@CTRPortland.org]

**Abby Reid,
Children's Ministry Director &
Connections Coordinator**

[E-Mail: areid@CTRPortland.org]

Cheryl Sullivan, Administrator

[E-Mail: ctr@CTRPortland.org]

In need of assistance?

If you're experiencing a material need beyond what you can manage, the CTR Deacons may be able to help. Please call them at 207-331-1304 or email deacons@ctrportland.org. All inquiries will remain confidential, and you will receive a reply within twenty-four hours.

CTR is located at
61 NEAL STREET, PORTLAND, ME 04102
207.878.1211 | <https://ctrportland.org>