PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
February 18, 2026
Ash Wednesday Service

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP
God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.
God's love endures forever.
God is our refuge and strength, a 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.
God's love endures forever.
Let us worship God.

*UNISON OPENING PRAYER
Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness, and strengthen us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy; in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever, Amen.

*HYMN *"Forty Days and Forty Nights"* # 167

FIRST READING Genesis 3: 8-19

SECOND READING Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

MESSAGE "Ashes"

Invitation to Lenten Discipline

Litany of Penitence
Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
Have mercy on us, O God.
We have not listened 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.
Have mercy on us, O God.
We confess to you O God, all our past unfaithfulness: The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,
we confess to you, O God.
Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,
we confess to you, O God.
Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
we confess to you, O God.
Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
we confess to you, O God.
Our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
we confess to you, O God.
Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
accept our repentance, O God.
For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
accept our repentance, O God.
For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
accept our repentance, O God.
Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.
Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

PRAYER & IMPOSITION OF ASHES
All are invited to come forward and receive ashes on their forehead or back of their hand.

*HYMN *"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"* # 166

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

* Please stand if you are able.