

First Presbyterian Church on the Square
Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026

PRELUDE "Gethsemane Prayer" by Colin Curtis

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God.

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.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

* HYMN "Spirit, Open My Heart" #692

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Isaiah 58: 1-12

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5: 20b- 6:10

*HYMN "Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers" #407

*GOSPEL READING Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

SERMON

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN
DISCIPLINE

PSALM 51

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your un failing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.

**2 Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.**

3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.

**4 Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.**

5 Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

**6 Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.**

7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

**8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.**

9 Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.

**10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

11 Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

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

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.

**14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.**

15 Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

**16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings**

17 My sacrifice, O God, is [b] a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.

**18 May it please you to prosper Zion,
to build up the walls of Jerusalem.**

19 Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the
righteous'
in burnt offerings offered whole;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

SILENT PRAYER

IMPOSITION OF ASHES & SELF OFFERING

PRAYER

BLESSING

Please leave the sanctuary in silence

**Stand as you are able*