

Massanutten Presbyterian Church
A Service of Worship
February 18, 2026
Ash Wednesday

We Gather at God's Call

We Gather in Silence

*Opening Sentences (responsive)

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.

*Opening Prayer (unison)

**Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made
and you forgive the sins of all who trust in you.**

**Create in us new and contrite hearts,
that truly repenting of our sins,
and acknowledging our brokenness,
we may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
full pardon and forgiveness;**

**through your Son, Jesus Christ our redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Hymn

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

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*Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
full of pity, love, and power.*

Refrain:

*I will arise and go to Jesus;
he will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.*

*Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome;
God's free bounty glorify,
true belief and true repentance,
every grace that brings you nigh. (Refrain)*

*Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
lost and ruined by the fall;
if you tarry till you're better,
you will never come at all. (Refrain)*

*Let not conscience make you linger,
nor of fitness fondly dream;
all the fitness he requireth
is to feel your need of him. (Refrain)*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Isaiah 58:1-12

Time for Silent Reflection

Hymn

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God (v. 1)

423

*Create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.*

Scripture

2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10

Time for Silent Reflection

Hymn

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God (v. 2)

423

*Cast me not away from your presence;
cast me not away from your presence;
cast me not away from your presence
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

Scripture

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Time for Silent Reflection

Hymn

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God (v. 3)

423

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation;
restore to me the joy of your salvation;
restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

Litany of Penitence (responsively)

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.

For the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

have mercy on us, O God.

For our self-indulgent appetites and ways

and our exploitation of other people,

have mercy on us, O God.

For our anger at our own frustration

and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

have mercy on us, O God.

For our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,

and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

have mercy on us, O God.

For our negligence in prayer and worship,

and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

have mercy on us, 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,

have mercy on us, O God.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,

and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

have mercy on us, O God.

For our waste and pollution of your creation

and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God of our salvation,

and show us your steadfast love.

Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us.

Amen.

Refrain:

*Sign us with ashes, merciful God,
children of dust, as to dust we return.
Sign us with ashes, merciful God.
Mark us and make us your own.*

*Surely, you alone can save us.
You pay our price with precious blood.
Reaching through your great compassion,
you lift your people with love. (Refrain)*

*Surely, you alone can free us.
You break the bonds of guilt and sin.
Bracing, till we walk uprightly,
you bolster our hope once again. (Refrain)*

*Surely, you alone redeem us.
You fill our dust with holy breath.
Bursting from the grave in glory,
you rise from the ashes of death! (Refrain)*

Prayers and Imposition of Ashes

Any who would like to receive the imposition of ashes in the form of a cross are invited to come to the front at this time. As the ashes are imposed, the words of Genesis 3:19 are spoken: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Prayer (*responsively*)

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.
By the cross and passion of our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ’s resurrection.

Hymn

O Lord, Hear My Prayer (*sung four times*)

*O Lord, hear my prayer.
O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer.
O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.*

Benediction