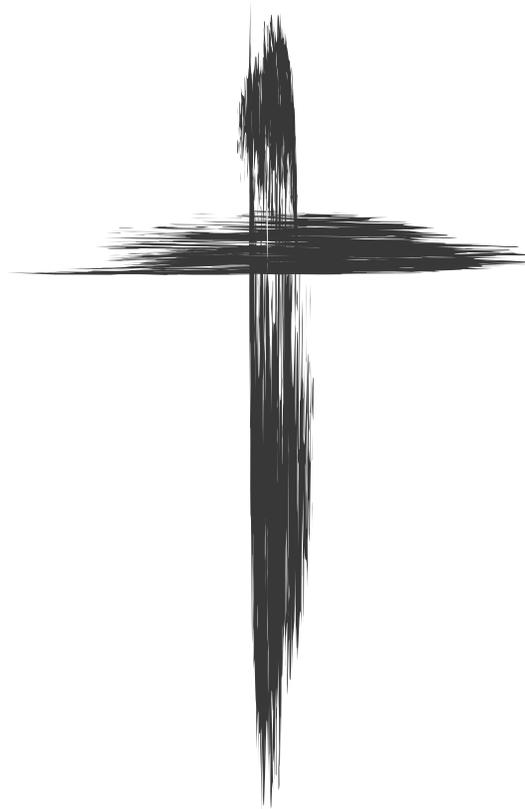


Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026 • 12:10 p.m.



Prelude

What Wondrous Love is ThisDavid Johnson

Call to Worship

One: *Have mercy on us, O God,*

All: **according to your steadfast love.**

One: *According to your abundant mercy*

All: **remove our transgressions from us.**

Prayer for the Day

***Hymn 167** “Forty Days and Forty Nights”

Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.
Shall not we your sorrow share and from worldly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer, strong with you to suffer pain?
Then if Satan on us press, flesh or spirit to assail,
victor in the wilderness, grant that we not faint nor fail!
So shall we have peace divine: holier gladness ours shall be;
round us, too, shall angels shine, such as served you faithfully.
Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by your side,
that with you we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Psalm 51:1-17

Second Lesson Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Homily Joseph L. Morrow

***Hymn 417** “Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin.
From earth-born passions set me free, and make me pure within.
Lord Jesus, think on me, amid the battle’s strife.
In all my pain and misery be thou my health and life.
Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray.
Through darkness and perplexity point thou the heavenly way.
Lord Jesus, think on me, that, when this life is past,
I may the eternal brightness see, and share thy joy at last.

An Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

Litany of Penitence *(silence is kept after each petition)*

One: *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.*

All: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

One: *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.*

All: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

One: *We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness.
For the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,*

All: **have mercy on us, O God.**

One: *For our self-indulgent appetites and ways
and our exploitation of other people,*

All: **have mercy on us, O God.**

One: *For our anger at our own frustration
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,*

All: **have mercy on us, O God.**

One: *For our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,*

All: **have mercy on us, O God.**

One: *For our negligence in prayer and worship,
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,*

All: **have mercy on us, O God.**

(continued on following page)

One: *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,*

All: **have mercy on us, O God.**

One: *For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,*

All: **have mercy on us, O God.**

One: *For our waste and pollution of your creation
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,*

All: **have mercy on us, O God.**

One: *Restore us, O God of our salvation, and show us your steadfast love.*

All: **Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us.**

The Imposition of Ashes

Offering

Anthem

“A Hymn to God the Father” Pelham Humfrey

Prayer of Dedication

**Holy God, you require mercy not sacrifice. We cannot buy your love and forgiveness.
But we can respond to these gifts with faithfulness. As we offer our lives to your
purposes, may wounds be healed, burdens be lifted, and the vitality of Creation be
restored. Amen.**

***Hymn 435.** “There’s A Wideness in God’s Mercy”

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There’s a kindness in God’s justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth’s sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth’s failings have such kindly judgment given.
O Spirit, wake in us the wonder of your power;
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives like springtime bud and flower.
For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God’s Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

***Charge and Benediction**

—DEPART IN SILENCE—

Welcome!

We are grateful to be worshipping with you on this solemn day on the church calendar.

Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation and hope you will explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church. ● We invite you to join us at this intersection of faith and life as we share God's grace with one another and the world through worship and ministries of healing, reconciliation, and justice.

Join our Lenten Journey

In this Lenten season of self-reflection and nurturing our spiritual growth, we invite you to use our daily **Lenten devotions as a resource for prayer and reflection**. They are available via email (sign up at bit.ly/fpcdevotions or email us at devotions@fourthchurch.org) and online (fourthchurch.org/devotions). ● Also available for your reflection during the season is our **Lenten "Rhythm and Word" video and podcast series**. These five-minute reflections from Fourth Church pastors are released on our YouTube channel (bit.ly/fpcvideos) and multiple podcast platforms (fourthchurch.org/podcasts) on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. To **receive them by email**, sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail ● Our **Lenten Path of Discipleship series**, which will explore *Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms* by Elizabeth Caldwell, will gather on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. beginning February 24. The sessions will meet via Zoom only. To participate, please register online at bit.ly/pathofdiscipleship2026

Resources for worship, prayer, and meditation

Join us on Wednesdays we gather via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer**. For details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). Buchanan Chapel is open for the **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. There will also be an opportunity to walk the labyrinth at 12:30 on Sundays in Lent. ● **On Sundays we gather for worship** at 9:30 (also livestreamed) and 11:00 a.m.

Get Connected

For resources and additional ways to connect with the Fourth Church community, sign up for our **weekly email newsletter** (subscribe online at bit.ly/newsfromfpc) and visit our **website** (fourthchurch.org). ● Online events are posted on our **church calendar**, accessible from the home page of our website and at fourthchurch.org/calendar ● We also invite you to follow us on **YouTube** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), **Facebook** (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and **Instagram** (instagram.com/fourthchurch).

Join us in Worship

This Lent at Fourth Church, we are entering a new sermon series called Unlikely Friends. Each week we will journey through a different moment in Scripture where someone's life was forever changed by meeting Christ. From Nicodemus's late-night questions to the Samaritan woman's unexpected conversation at the well, these encounters reveal a Savior who sees us, knows us, and invites us into new life. Join us as we prepare our hearts for Easter by exploring the transforming presence of Jesus—then and now.

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday | Bach Cantata #12

Sunday, March 29

9:30 a.m. | in person in the Sanctuary and livestream via fourthchurch.org

11:00 a.m. | in person only

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2

6:30 p.m. | in person only in Buchanan Chapel

Good Friday Tenebrae

Friday, April 3

6:30 p.m. | in person in the Sanctuary and livestream via fourthchurch.org

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5

6:30 a.m. | Sunrise Service at Oak Street Beach

9:30 a.m. | in person in the Sanctuary and livestream via fourthchurch.org

11:30 a.m. | in person only

Worship Leaders

Nanette Sawyer, Joseph L. Morrow

The Music Today

Soloist: Carol Carpenter

Doug Cleveland, Interim Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

TODAY'S SERVICE INCLUDES THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES. These ashes serve as a sign of human mortality and penitence—and the eternal life that is ours by God's grace alone.

WE ARE RECEIVING THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING throughout Lent. Gifts to this offering support Chicago Lights Tutoring and Social Service Center; Fourth Church Meals Ministry; and the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger, and Self-Development of People Programs.

To make a "One Great Hour of Sharing" gift, you can use the envelopes in the pew racks or designate "One Great Hour of Sharing" (OGHS) when giving at fourthchurch.org/give or on the memo line of a check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

Camille Cook Howe Pastor

Rocky Supinger Senior Associate Pastor

Nancy Benson-Nicol Associate Pastor

Matt Helms Associate Pastor

Joseph L. Morrow Associate Pastor

Nanette Sawyer Associate Pastor

Amy Pagliarella Parish Associate for Caring Ministries

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