

February 22, 2026

## First Sunday of Lent

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**Prelude** - Gathering as a Community of Faith Marni Wiggins

**Welcome (Announcements)**

**\*Greeting One Another in the Spirit of Love**

**\*Opening Praise Song** “Lord, I Need You” Matt Maher

**\*Prayer**

**\* YADAH**

(In the Hebrew Scriptures, there’s a word for praise called “**yadah.**” It means to extend the hands - to let go -to surrender before you sing. Place your hands in front of you palms down. Breathe out. Slowly turn you hands palms up and spread your fingers. Breathe in.)

**L:** In silence, we offer yadah. With open hands, we offer yadah releasing what we cannot carry and receiving the grace that brings us home.

**L:** “With open hands, we release the shame of being human.”  
*(hands open, palms down — exhale)*

**L:** “With open hands, we receive the breath of a God who forms us with care.” *(hands turn, palms up — inhale)*

**\*Hymn** “Just As I Am, without One Plea” No. 325

**Scriptures**

Genesis 2:5-9

Psalm 103

\*Mark 1:1-13

**Pastoral Prayer of the People**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**\*Hymn** “Be Thou My Vision” No. 353

**God Moments**

(This is a time to share how Jesus Christ our risen Lord has provided you with a moment of blessing and grace)

**Youth Sermon**

**Special Music** “Give Me Jesus” Nancy Charles

**Message** “Still Here, Ashes Without Shame”  
Rev J. Mark Hensley

**Anointing with Oil and Ashes**

**Praise Song** “My Chains are Gone” Christ Tomlin

**Offertory Prayer (Read in Unison)**

**Gracious God, we offer these gifts as we reach for you, just as you reach for us. You meet us in our brokenness and draw close to our dust with a love that never leaves. Use these offerings to bring your healing near to all, as we follow your lead into the world. Amen.**

**Offertory** (The offering plates will be passed while music is played)

**\*Doxology**

**\*Hymn** “I Surrender All” No. 369

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Song** “Let There Be Peace on Earth” No. 308

**Postlude** Marni Wiggins

**We exist to reflect the love of Jesus so that others may experience God’s love as we grow together in faith, love and service**

## **“The Long Road Home”**

**God does not watch us from a distance, or wait for us to find our own way out of the dark.**

**Instead, the God of all creation draws near, kneeling in the dust of our lives to touch our weary eyes.**

**Like a soft light breaking through a heavy fog, God’s presence settles beside us—not to judge our blindness, but to heal our sight.**

**Even when we feel scattered or small, we are never out of reach. Love has come close, whispering that we are seen, calling us to look up, and inviting us to walk the long road home together.**

Notes:



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