

*“Inspired by the love and teachings of Jesus Christ, the Barre Congregational Church seeks to be a welcoming and caring congregation that supports each other and serves the wider world.”*

The Barre Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ



*Ash Wednesday by Karl Spitzweg, Germany, 1855 - 1860*

February 18th, 2026

Ash Wednesday

Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell

*Pastor*

## Welcome & Announcements

### Prelude

#### Call to Worship

Leader: Come, you who are toiling, you who are bound-up;

**People: Come, Liberating God, hear our cries for mercy!**

Leader: Come, you who are lost, you who are hopeless;

**People: Come, Redeeming Christ, turn us to your light!**

Leader: Come, you who are angry, you who are hurting;

**People: Come, Cleansing Spirit, enter in to our hearts!**

Leader: Come, for confession, for forgiveness, for restoration!

**People: Come, O Holy One, free us, heal us, bless us!**

\* Opening Hymn

“Forty Days and Forty Nights”

#179

#### Prayer of Confession (*Responsive*)

*Based on Psalm 51: 1 - 17*

*Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.*

Side A: You know my transgressions, Righteous God, and so do I.

**Side B: I have done what is evil in your sight.**

Side A: Please...

**Side B: Please...**

Side A: As your people, we have not been as faithful as we could be.

**Side B: But we do not know how to escape from our sin.**

*Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.*

Side A: We pass judgment on others;

**Side B: And we forget that judgment is your job, not ours.**

Side A: Please...

**Side B: Please...**

Side A: Do not cast me away from you;

**Side B: Do not take your Holy Spirit from me.**

*Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.*

Side A: Wipe away my wrongdoings, God of Mercy;

**Side B: Hide your face from my transgressions, God of Love.**

Side A: Please...

**Side B: Please...**

Side A: Create in me a clean heart.

**Side B: Put a new and right spirit within me.**

*Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.*

Side A: Sustain in me a willing spirit;

**Side B: And restore to me the joy of your salvation.**

Side A: Please...

**Side B: Please...**

Side A: You desire truth in my inward being;

**Side B: Therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart**

*Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.*

Side A: Let me hear joy and gladness;

**Side B: Let me sing aloud of your deliverance!**

Side A: Please...

**Side B: Please...**

Side A: Our sacrifices will not appease you

**Side B: It is our genuine selves that you desire.**

*Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.*

Side A: Deliver me from bloodshed, God of my salvation,

**Side B: And my whole self will declare your praise!**

Side A: Have mercy on me, O God,

**Side B: According to your steadfast love.**

Side A: Then I will become an example for faithfulness;

**Side B: And I will help others return to your ways.**

**All: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

Assurances of Grace

Scripture Readings

Joel 2: 1 - 2, 12 - 17

Mathew 6: 1 - 6, 16 - 21

Responding to the Word

One: The word of God, for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Rev. Dwight*

\*Hymn “From Ashes to the Living Font” Insert

Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline *Rev. James*

Prayer Over the Ashes *Rev. Dwight*

Imposition of the Ashes *Rev. James & Rev. Dwight*

Prayer after Imposition (*Responsive*)

Leader: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation.

**People: That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Leader: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

**People: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ’s resurrection.**

\*Communion Hymn “Eat This Bread” #414

The Sacrament of Holy Communion *See booklet*

\*Closing Hymn “Savior, When In Dust To You” Insert

Benediction

\*\*Postlude

\*Please stand if you are able.

\*\*Please sit quietly for the postlude.



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### ***Welcome Guests!***

We are so glad that you are worshiping with us today! The Barre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ is an open and affirming congregation where no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here! We are blessed by your presence with us. Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right of the sanctuary and downstairs. We heartily invite you to join us for conversation and refreshments in our Fellowship Hall following the service.

We welcome the seekers.  
We welcome those who question.  
We welcome those who believe without question.  
It is not for us to turn anyone away.  
Arms wide open.  
Welcome home.

### **Upcoming events and meetings:**

Wednesday, Feb. 18: Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 pm

Sunday, Feb. 22: Worship Service with Rev. James

Sunday, Feb. 22: Handbell Practice 11 am

Tuesday, Feb. 24: Deacons Meeting

*Please inform the church office of all upcoming events*

### ***Serving this Sunday***

, Lector

, Greeter

, Ushers

Deacons, Coffee Hour

, Welcome

*Thank you to our volunteers for their service to the Church.*



pas sion, You lift up Your peo - ple with love.  
fa - vor, You bless us with par - don and peace.  
kind - ness, The con - trite of heart You con - sole.  
right - ly, You bol - ster our hope once a - gain.  
ra - diance, A sac - ri - fice wor - thy for You.  
glo - ry, You rise from the ash - es of death.

Ten: Mary Louisa Bringle, b. 1953, © 2006, 2009, GIA Publications, Inc.  
Tune: INDIGO, LM with refrain: Tony E. Allen, b. 1980, © 2009, GIA Publications, Inc.

### 303 From Ashes to the Living Font

1. From ash - es to the liv - ing font Your  
2. Through fast - ing, prayer, and char - i - ty Your  
3. Insert appropriate stanza  
4. From ash - es to the liv - ing font Your

Church must jour - ney, Lord, Bap - tized in grace, in  
voice speaks deep with - in, Re - turn - ing us to  
Church must jour - ney still, Through cross and tomb: to

grace re - newed By Your most ho - ly word.  
ways of truth And turn - ing us from sin.  
East - er joy, In Spir - it - fire ful - filled.

#### Year A Sundays I & II

3. From desert to the mountaintop  
In Christ our way we see,  
So, tempered by temptation's might  
We might transfigured be.

#### Sunday III

3. For thirsting hearts let waters flow,  
Our fainting souls revive;  
And at the well Your waters give  
Our everlasting life.

#### Year B

##### Sundays I & II

3. From desert to the mountaintop  
In Christ our way we see,  
So, tempered by temptation's might  
We might transfigured be.

#### Sunday III

3. Come, purify our hearts and lives,  
Cast out our sinful ways;  
As temples of the Spirit, cleansed,  
Restore us for Your praise.

#### Year C

##### Sundays I & II

3. From desert to the mountaintop  
In Christ our way we see,  
So, tempered by temptation's might  
We might transfigured be.

#### Sunday III

3. You call us to be penitent,  
You tend us patiently,  
Preserving us from perishing,  
So fruitful we might be.

#### Sunday IV

3. You heal our vision to reveal,  
Restore, renew, redeem;  
You are the true light of the world,  
We cry: "Lord, we believe!"

#### Sunday V

3. Our graves split open, bring us back,  
Your promise to proclaim;  
To darkened tombs call out, "Arise!"  
And glorify Your name.

#### Sunday IV

3. The Son of Man is lifted up,  
Our eyes behold the sign:  
You are God's own beloved Son,  
The source of life divine.

#### Sunday V

3. Unless, like grains of wheat, we fall  
Upon the ground to die,  
We cannot share the gift of life,  
Raised up, like You, on high.

#### Sunday IV

3. When we repent, You run to us,  
Forgiving arms spread wide;  
You celebrate when we return,  
And come home to Your side.

#### Sunday V

3. Anointed for the cross and tomb,  
Anointed to arise;  
You fill our hearts and homes, O Lord,  
With fragrance of new life.

Ten: Alma J. Hemmending, b. 1956, © 1994, 2011, World Library Publications  
Tune: ST. PLAVIAN, CM, John Day's Psalter, 1562

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# Savior, When in Dust to You

1 Sav-ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom-age due;  
 2 By your help-less in-fant years, by your life of want and tears,  
 3 By your hour of dire de-spair, by your ag-o-ny of prayer,  
 4 By your deep ex-pir-ing groan, by the sad se-pul-chral stone,

when, re-pen-tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep-ing eyes;  
 by your days of deep dis-tress in the sav-age wil-der-ness,  
 by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc-ing spear, and tor-tur-ing scorn,  
 by the vault whose dark a-bode held in vain the ris-ing God,

oh, by all your pains and woe suf-fered once for us be-low,  
 by the dread, mys-te-rious hour of the in-sult-ing tempt-er's pow'r,  
 by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread-ful sac-ri-fice,  
 oh, from earth to heav'n re-stored, might-y, re-as-cend-ed Lord,

bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
 turn, oh, turn a fa-v'ring eye; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
 lis-ten to our hum-ble sigh; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
 bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!