



ARVADA
United Methodist Church

**6750 Carr Street • Arvada, CO 80004 • 303.421.5135 •
www.arvadaumc.org**

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026
Ash Wednesday Service**

Gathering Music

Abby Skinner

Prelude

Kyrie

Chancel Choir

Greeting

Dr. Amy Gearhart

Opening Prayer

O God, maker of every thing and judge of all that you have made,
from the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of death
you raise us up.

By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put
within us a new spirit,

That we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** #2138 - *Sundays Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes*
(Rae Whitney, B. F. White, arr. Ronald A. Nelson) One License # 98205

Verse 1

Sunday's palms are Wednesday's ashes as another Lent begins.
Thus, we kneel before our Maker in contrition for our sins.
We have marred baptismal pledges in rebellion gone astray.
Now returning, seek forgiveness. Grant us pardon, God, this day.

Verse 2

We have failed to love our neighbors; their offences to forgive.
Have not listened to their troubles, nor have cared just how they live.
We are jealous, proud, impatient, loving over much our things.

May the yielding of our failings be our Lenten offerings.

Verse 3

We are hasty to judge others; blind to proof of human need,
and our lack of understanding demonstrates our inner greed.

We have wasted earth's resources. Want and suffering we've ignored.

Come and cleanse us, then restore us. Make new hearts within us Lord.

Scripture (UMH 785-786) Psalm 51 1-17

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin!

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

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done that which is evil in your sight; so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless in your judgement.

Behold, I was born into iniquity, and I have been sinful since my mother conceived me.

Behold, you desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear with joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

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

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

Deliver me from death, O God, God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth your praise.

For you have no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart,

O God, you will not despise. *Lay Reader: Marsha Clark*

Offertory Music

Sign Us with Ashes

(Mary Louise Bringle, Tony Alonso)

Chancel Choir, Abby Skinner

Scripture

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

‘Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ‘So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Lay Reader: Marsha Clark

Sermon

“Marked For Resistance”

Invitation to Observance

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

the early Christians observed with great devotion
the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection,

and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church. In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.

We invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

Thanksgiving over the Ashes (In Unison)

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

Unison Prayer of Confession and Silent Prayer

O God of life, we confess the ways we turn away from the fullness of life that you offer.

God of love, we confess the hatred we hold in our hearts.

God of compassion, we confess our indifference.

God of justice, we confess that our lives are linked to oppressive systems.

God of peace, we confess the violent movements of our hearts, the violent realities of our world.

Holy God, we confess our sins to you and pray for your forgiveness.

ALL PRAY SILENTLY

Words of Assurance

***Closing Hymn**

Oh That I Could Repent

(Charles Wesley, Robert Jackson)

Sung to the Tune TRETHAM (UMH420) CCLI Song # 99481

1 Oh, that I could repent! Oh, that I could believe!

Thou, by thy voice, the marble rent, The rock in sunder cleave!

2 Grant me my sins to feel, and then the load remove;

Wound, and pour in my wounds, to heal, the balm of pardoning love.

3 In every trying hour, stand by my feeble soul,

and screen me from my nature's power, till thou hast made me whole.

4 This is thy will, I know, that I should holy be,

Should let my sins this moment go, this moment turn to thee.

***Benediction**

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