



620 Shamrock Blvd.

Venice, FL 34293

941-493-6741

website: veniceucc.org

email: veniceucc@gmail.com

United in Christ's love, a just world for all

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

Gathering Music

Bringing in the Light of Christ

Just As I Am

Elliott/Bradbury

Call to Worship

Filled with the light of God's glory, we have come here today to worship and praise God. We have come to praise God for God's active presence in our lives, and to realign ourselves with God's deepest desire for us — to be the humans God has created us to be.

We come for forgiveness, for mercy, for peace.

We come to turn our lives over to God.

**We come, thankful for each moment that we have been given
to practice living according to God's law of love.**

Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving

God of passionate love and zealous commitment,
It is Your kindness that has softened our hearts
and led us to You.

We praise and thank You, O Lord.

It is Your devotion to us that has given us the courage
to commit ourselves to You.

We praise and thank You, O Lord.

It is Your invitation that has inspired us to take upon us Your yoke,
and in it find purpose, meaning and rest.

We praise and thank You, O Lord.

Receive again our offering of worship, of love and of our lives.

This is our living sacrifice of praise for Your blessing and glory, God of our hearts. Amen.

Song

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

**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.**

God's Word — from the Beginning Genesis 2

At the time God made Earth and Heaven, before any grasses or shrubs had sprouted from the ground—God hadn't yet sent rain on Earth, nor was there anyone around to work the ground (the whole Earth was watered by underground springs)—God formed Human out of dirt from the ground and blew into human nostrils the breath of life. The Human came alive—a living soul!

**God created human beings;
God created humanity in God's image;
God created them godlike,
reflecting God's nature.**

God looked over everything God had made; it was so good, so very good!

**We honor and praise you, Holy God,
for you are our loving creator.
Help us to grow more into your likeness each day
during this season of preparation
and of growing faith. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession and Preparation with Silences

(The congregation is invited to write their confession upon the rice paper.)

And now, empowered by Your grace, given to us
through Jesus's life, death, resurrection, and ascension,
we seek to renew our commitment and consciously deepen our relationship with You.

We recognize, O Lord, that we are simply dust.

Remind us through our confession and reaffirmation of
our covenant with you of our dependence on You,
and Your devotion to us.

**We rededicate ourselves to Loving You, O God,
with all of our heart,
with all our our being,
and with all of our minds.**

For this is the first and greatest commandment.

**And we reaffirm our commitment to loving all others
as well as we love our selves.**

For all of the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

May we know the strength of Your Spirit
as we seek to follow You;
May we know the discipline of Your love
as we seek to draw nearer to You;
May we know the insight of Your wisdom
as we seek to learn of You.
May we know the joy of sharing with You
in ministry, in suffering, in death and in life.
For Your glory and your kin-dom's sake. Amen

Song

O Healing River

Hellerman

1. Refrain—Sue Jack; 2. Refrain—all; 3. Verse 2—Sue;
4. Refrain—all; 5. Bridge Section—Sue; 6. Refrain—all

(Refrain) **O healing river, send down your waters,**
Send down your waters across the land.
O healing river, send down your waters,
O healing river, send your waters down.

Signs of our Lament as We Turn to God

Contemplative Songs

Have Thine Own Way, Lord
We Keep This Solemn Fast
Give Me a Clean Heart
Reverence
Air from Suite No. 3

Pollard/Stebbins
 16th c. German
 Douroux
 Heaps
 Bach

Our Lord's Prayer

Our Loving God who is above all, holy is your name.
May your kin-dom come and
your will be done here on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive the ways in which we have knowingly
or unknowingly caused harm to others,
as we forgive the harm done to us.
Protect us in our times of trial,
and keep us from retaliation.
For all that is, is Yours;
So we return all that we have claimed as our own
to your care.
And we Glorify You, Forever and Ever. Amen

Song

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”
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.

Prayer of Reconciliation and Faithfulness (insert)

Song

O Lord, Hear My Prayer
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.

Prayer of Sending

Benediction

Carrying out the Light of Christ

The Potter's Hand

Zschech

(Although only the melody will be played,
please reflect upon these words to the song as you listen.)

*Take me, mold me, use me, fill me;
I give my life to the Potter's hand.
Call me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me;
I give my life to the Potter's hand.*

Participants

Rev. Barbara L. Dickason, BCC
Richard Balkin, Violinist
Susan Jack, Vocalist
Barbara Quinn, Piano

Prayer of Reconciliation and Faithfulness

**We believe in you, O God,
eternal Spirit of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:
You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.
You seek in holy love to save all people
from aimlessness and sin.
You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.
In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth,
our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to yourself.
You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the Church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all nationalities,
ages, tongues, genders, sexual orientations,
ethnicities, and races.
You call us into your Church
to accept the cost and joys of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world,
to resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
and to join him in his passion and victory.
You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.
Amen.**