

Observing Lent

Today you are receiving a cross of ashes on a burlap bag. These are traditional symbols of repentance and mourning.

In Job 2:7-8: So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

In Jonah 3:4-6: Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

In Luke 10:13 and Matthew 11:21: "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had been performed in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

Use the sackcloth and ashes as a reminder of God's great love for us, that though we do not deserve it, we have been rescued from sin, death and destruction. Like Ninevah, we have been saved by a loving God who hears our cries of repentance and mercy. And then be reminded that we are supposed to do likewise. Live in focused celebration this Lent of the ways that God has pulled us out of despair and brings us hope. Live into that hope so others may share in it.



**Centered in Worship,
We Reach, Teach, Tend and Send**



16303 W. Bell Rd., Door 5
Surprise, AZ 85374
(623) 584-9418 or (623) 584-9656

Service of Scripture, Prayer and Music

February 18, 2026, 7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday

Prelude “I Love You, Lord” Laurie Klein
arr. Jan Sanborn

Welcome/Announcements

*Call to Worship

Leader: Children of God, we gather to prepare for our journey through Lent,
a journey of repentance and mercy.

People: We gather to be renewed in God’s mercy.

Leader: We gather to confess, to tell the truth about sin and our
dependence on God’s grace.

People: We gather to call upon God’s mercy.

Leader: We gather to repent, to receive and cooperate with grace as we
turn from sin and toward love of God and neighbor.

People: We gather to live in the promise of God’s mercy.

Leader: People of God, we gather to worship God, whose steadfast mercy
and love never fail!

**People: We gather to worship, trusting in God’s mercy as we follow Jesus
on the road to new life. Amen.**

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025

***Opening Hymn** Open My Eyes That I May See UMH 454
vv 1-3

Offering

Offertory “The Wondrous Cross” Tomlin, Reeves & Walt
Celebration Choir arr. Larry Shackley

***Doxology** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow UMH 95

*Offertory Prayer

Scripture Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21 Shannon Sundbye
Liturgist

Sermon The Humble Path Pastor Misty Howick

Call to Prayer Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord TFWS 2131

Silent Prayer

Assurance of God’s Forgiveness

Lord’s Prayer (spoken)

Invitation to Lenten Discipline

Thanksgiving over the Ashes

Imposition of Ashes “The Wonderful Cross” Tomlin, Reeves & Walt
arr. Jan Sanborn

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Closing Hymn** Take Time to Be Holy UMH 395
vv 1, 2, 4

*Benediction

***Postlude** “He’s Always Been Faithful” Grooves, Chilsoholm, & Ryan
arr. Jan Sanborn

Please stand as you are able

Worship Service and Music

Rev. Misty Howick Pastor	Chaplain Kathy Norris Pastoral Assistant
Jeffrey Conger Director of Music	Richard Messenger Accompanist