

WORTHINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Wolves and the Shepherd: A Service for Ash Wednesday

**Worthington Presbyterian Church
Mission Statement**

In Christ's love, we connect, serve, and transform

Thank You

Cover Art

Mary Joyce Evans

Ushers

Youth: Anna Van Skyke & Alicia Neylon

Team A: Gregg Russell Co-Captain, Dan Foley Co-Captain

Jeff Appel, Dan Bevan, Bob Clouse, Diana Clouse, Harry Pukay-Martin, Curtis Payne, Ellen Payne, Mark Seniff, Betsy Seniff

Cornerstone Youth Band

Tristan Arthur - acoustic guitar

Katie Becker - vocals, bass guitar

Thomas Becker - piano

Mary Joyce Evans - guitar

Lara Frederick - piano

Caleb Okeyere - piano

Will Frederick - cajon

Ohenewaa Okeyere - vocals

Mentors

Robert Boyd, vocals

LingLing Chen, percussion

Tom Shaffer, guitar

Worthington Presbyterian Church
THE WOLVES AND THE SHEPHERD:
A Service for Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

7:00 PM

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

** Please stand*

WELCOME

Jack Van Slyke

CALL TO WORSHIP

"What Wondrous Love"
Southern Harmony, 1835
Shine Robison, pianist

Arr. Vicki
Collinsworth

The music is a call to open one's spirit to God's presence in our midst.

OPENING SENTENCES

(Adapted from Psalm 23)

Mayah Nembuanyi

One: The Lord is our Shepherd,

All: We shall not want.

One: The Lord makes us lie down in green pastures, and leads us to still waters,

All: God restores our soul.

One: And even when we are walking in the through the darkest valleys,

All: We shall fear no evil, for God is with us.

One: The Lord prepares prepares a table before us, even in the midst of our enemies,

All: And yet God anoints us with oil and our cup overflows.

One: Surely, goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives,

All: And we shall dwell in the house of the Lord our whole life long.

One: Let us come worship the Lord together.

All: Let us give praise to our Good Shepherd.

***HYMN #418**

*"Softly and Tenderly
Jesus is Calling"*

Cornerstone Youth Band – Shine Robison, Director

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

Mae Smith

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Nicholas Amonoh

GOSPEL READING

John 9:35 - 10:6

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them...

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!

ANTHEM

"The Good Shepherd"

Shine Robison

Cornerstone Youth Band – Shine Robison, Director

Verse 1:

*Lord, You see our suffering
Your heart grieves with us
We've turned aside and wandered in our own ways
Christ have mercy on us*

Verse 2:

*You redeem us and call us Your own
Though we stray, Lord You find us
We confess our brokenness and our weakness
Jesus have mercy on us*

Verse 3:

*You are the Good Shepherd
Laid Your life for all
Help us to know Your voice in the blur
Christ have mercy on us*

Chorus:

*You redeem us and call us Your own
Though we stray, Lord You find us
We confess our brokenness and our weakness
Jesus have mercy on us*

Ending:

*God we come now humbly before You
To seek justice, mercy and love
Help us to be lights in the darkness
Jesus have mercy on us*

GOSPEL READING (cont'd) John 10:6-21

Felix Abrokwa

... Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

Again the Jews were divided because of these words. Many of them were saying, "He has a demon and is out of his mind. Why listen to him?" Others were saying, "These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

LENTEN MEDITATION "The Wolves and the Shepherd" Nicholas Robison

***HYMN #834**

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Cornerstone Youth Band – Shine Robison, Director

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

LITANY OF PENITENCE

Peter Schlader & SJ Lane

One: Holy and merciful God,
we confess to you and to one another,

and to the whole communion of saints
in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we
have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart,
and mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness.
For the price, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: For our negligence in prayer and worship,
and our failure to commend the faith.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: Accept our repentance, O God,
for the wrongs we have done.
For our neglect of human need, dignity, and suffering
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: For all false judgments,
for uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbors,
and for our prejudice and contempt
towards those who differ from us.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: Restore us, O God of our salvation,
and show us your steadfast love.

All: Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*All are invited and welcome to receive the imposition of ashes from a pastor, as a mark on the forehead or hand in the shape of a cross. When you hear the words "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return," please respond with "**Amen**," and return quietly to your seat.*

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

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

Pastor: By the cross and passion of our Savior,
Church: *Bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.*

Musical Offering “Sign Us with Ashes”
 (Hymn #433)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SJ Lane

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

***HYMN #787**

**"God Weeps with Us
Who Weep and Mourn"**

Cornerstone Youth Band – Shine Robison, Director

*CHARGE & BLESSING

Jack Van Slyke

LEAVING IN SILENCE

We appreciate you beginning Lent with Worthington Presbyterian Church. May God bless you, and may you be a blessing to others.

Lent, meaning “spring,” is a time to prepare for celebrating Jesus' resurrection and God's renewal of all things. Our theme, “**Downward Glory**,” will show how Jesus’ glory is different from worldly glory. It’s about humility, not triumph; service, not power. Other opportunities to grow in Jesus’ style of glory during Lent:



Join us for our Children’s Lenten Workshop on Sunday, Feb. 22 during the Sunday School hour!

Snacks, crafts, and family Lent bags available to pick up after worship.

Location: Fellowship Hall



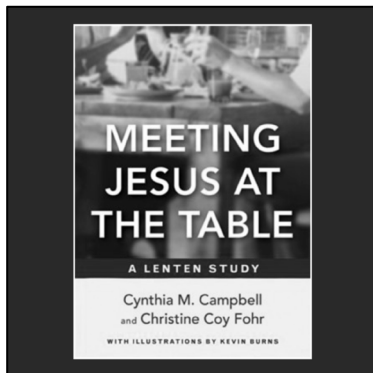
On Sunday evenings, groups are gathering for dinner, Bible study, and communion at church members’ homes. Each group consists of: six attendees, two hosts & a pastor.

Starts: Feb. 22 at 6PM



Join Pastor Matt for a class on an ancient way of prayer, focusing on silence and simplicity. A potluck soup dinner starts at 6:30PM, followed by the class at 7PM.

Starts: Wednesday, Feb. 25
Location: Chapel



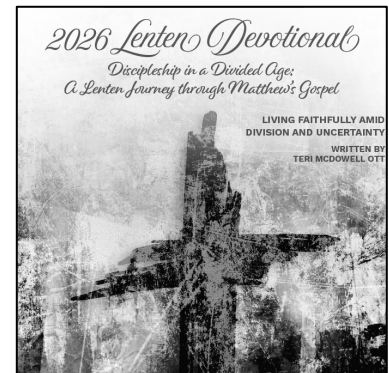
Join Pastor Tom for a 9 AM adult Sunday School class focusing on Jesus’ radical hospitality during meals.

Starts: Sunday, March 1
Location: Rm. 222 / Zoom



Join us for an evening of table fellowship and Bible study focused on the themes "Do Not Fear" and "Worship God."

Next TNT: Feb. 24 at 6PM



Discipleship in a Divided Age invites readers to examine the teachings of Matthew’s Gospel while pursuing God’s kingdom amid today’s societal divisions.

Available: Feb. 18

Scan this code to RSVP or to learn more about these opportunities:

