

YOU ARE DUST,  
AND TO DUST  
YOU SHALL  
RETURN.

GENESIS 3:19

UNBOUND  
*Longing for Wholeness*

February 18, 2026

Welcome to worship this morning!

Bulletin Cues: **Bold** indicates congregational response, \* indicates please stand, if able

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

With fasting, weeping, and mourning,

**we return to God.**

With honesty and humility,

**we acknowledge our humanity.**

In accord and in silence,

**we offer our prayers.**

#### OPENING HYMN GTG 442

Just As I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that thy  
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - ya  
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come,  
4 Just as I am, thy love un-known has bro - ken

blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me  
con - flict, man - ya doubt, fight - ings and fears with -  
par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise  
ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea,



## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Now is the time. Now is the day of salvation. Now is the beginning of a season of deep breaths, deep reflection, and deep reckoning. We must not accept God's grace in vain. Now is the time for confession.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

**We know the ways we have sinned against you.**

**We know the ways we have done evil.**

**We know the ways we are guilty.**

**We deserve your judgment, and yet we plead:**

**do not cast us away from your presence.**

**Do not take your Holy Spirit from us.**

**Create in us clean hearts.**

**Hide your face from our sins**

**and blot out the evil we have done.**

**Let us hear joy and gladness;**

**let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

Even now the Lord says, Return to me with all your heart.

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love.

**Thanks be to God for this unimaginable grace.**

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Merciful God, your Word is our way of truth and life. Create in us hearts that are clean and put your Holy Spirit within us, so that we may receive your grace and declare your praise forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments;  
they want God on their side.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day  
and oppress all your workers.

You fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you;  
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.  
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually  
and satisfy your needs in parched places  
and make your bones strong,  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water  
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

#### RESPONSIVE READING 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 alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**

**Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.**

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.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed 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.**

**Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take 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 bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

**O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.**

**For you have no delight in sacrifice;**

**if I were 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.**

#### GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

“Beware of practicing your righteousness 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 somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces 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.

We proclaim Christ crucified— the wisdom and power of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

\*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 753      Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

vs. 1,2,4



1 Make me a chan-nel of your peace.      Where  
2 Make me a chan-nel of your peace.      Where  
4 Make me a chan-nel of your peace.      It



there is ha - tred, let me bring your love.      Where  
there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope.      Where  
is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned,      in



there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord,      and  
there is dark-ness, on - ly light,      and  
giv - ing of our - selves that we re - ceive,      and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you.  
where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.  
dy - ing that we're born to e-ter - nal life.

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## INVITATION TO THE OBSERVATION OF IMPOSITION OF ASHES

As followers of Jesus we see Lent as a season to prepare for this celebration and to renew our lives individually and collectively in the mystery of a crucified and risen living Lord. We begin by acknowledging our need for repentance and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.



We start this journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. Tonight, you will be marked with ash and in the sign of the cross. You have heard the words from Genesis “From dust you came. To dust you shall return.” This ancient sign and ritual speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, the truth of our impermanence and the need for Christ’s love and light. Today we will mark each other with this sign as a community of nomads on a path which at the current time may be uncertain for us as individuals and as a community of faith but it is open to self-examination, self-emptying love with practices of prayer and fasting with works of living kindness and mercy.

### IMPOSITION OF ASHES

We will share the experience of imposition of the ashes on each other, symbolizing our journey through this Lenten season together as the body of Christ in this community. As the ashes are passed from person to person, we mark the person to our right with a cross and say “from dust you came, to dust you shall return”. Use the wipes after to clean your fingers. Those online are invited to put ashes on their own foreheads at the end and the congregation present will say aloud to you the same words.

### \*PRAYER OVER ASHES

From dust we came, to dust we shall return and even yet we sing “Alleluia” at the grave because death is not the end, only a sign of an impending resurrection. May these ashes tonight be a sign of our mortality, as desire for repentance, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

### JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In Christ Jesus, we have a great high priest who knows our weakness and suffering; therefore, with boldness, let us seek God’s grace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer...**

To you, O God, we entrust these prayers, knowing that you alone can provide grace to help in our time of need; in the name of our great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior. **Amen.**

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**



# SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

\*CLOSING HYMN GTG 840

When Peace Like a River



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
3 He lives: O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought. My  
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I  
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the

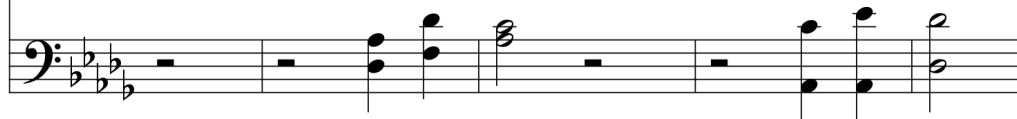


taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*



It is well with my soul;  
It is well with my soul;



it is well; it is well with my soul.



## \*CHARGE AND BLESSING

May God who seeks you by night and by day, in death and in life,  
open your senses to the mystery of God's grace,  
enfold you through water and Spirit in Christ's love,  
and give you confidence in the Spirit's power to unbind and grant new life.  
May the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Mother of us all,  
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Go in peace forgiven, whole and free.

**Quietly leave when you are ready.**

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This Lent, we will be using this resource from Church Anew: *Unbound: Longing for Wholeness*.

From the Church Anew's website:

"What if the opposite of being bound is being whole? Our world is filled with things that hold us captive. These things that bind us prevent us from living the whole, abundant life that God has promised us. Through the stories of regular people encountering Jesus, and being drawn to the wholeness that Jesus provides, we can learn about our own longings and be drawn into wholeness."

We welcome longtime friend, Rev. Julie Beck, who will join us for worship (virtually) during Lent.

Instead of a traditional devotional or the daily texts, we will delve into contemplative practices. The resource is available tonight!

# Hope That Transforms Us

Saturday, February 28th  
9:00am-12:00pm

Attend in-person or via Zoom

Hear a variety of people share their stories of hope.  
Find joy in the midst of darkness through group  
discussion and individual reflection.



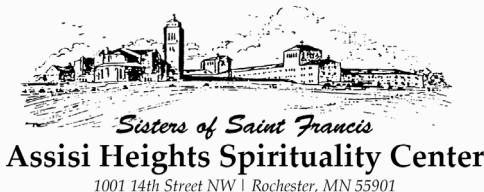
**Dr. Edward  
Creagan**

Dr. Ed Creagan, Mayo Clinic oncologist and palliative-care pioneer, former president of the Mayo Staff, is a beloved speaker and author known for his humor, compassion, and practical wisdom on living well through life's hardest moments.



**Fr. Nick  
Mezacappa**

Fr. Nick Mezacappa, longtime Calvary Episcopal Church rector, is a retired priest devoted to community connection, justice, humor, and storytelling—still serving others in both ministry and everyday life.



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# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Office Closed

7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship

Friday, February 20, 2026

12:00 pm Newsletter Items Due

Sunday, February 22, 2026

9:30 am Worship - Onsite and Online



Judy Leal

Jane and Ed Burgstaler family,  
especially daughters Jenny & Elissa  
Nellie Brovold's mother, Jacqueline  
Jennifer Hall and Sage Hall

Amy Ward and family

Sherrie Wilson

Vera Atkinson

Jennifer Taylor

Kristy Giere

*To be added to the prayer list, please contact the office: 507-280-9291 or via email: [office@cpcrochester.org](mailto:office@cpcrochester.org).*

## Serving in Worship Today

Guest Preacher

Rev. Julie Beck

Guest Pianist

Kristy Giere

Liturgist

Dave Copeland

IT Support

Louis Bouchard &  
Bruce Felger

## Church Staff

Music Director

Jennifer Taylor

Pianist

Tianyao Xie

Custodian

Nancy Sanford

Office Manager

Stephanie Pasch