



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

**Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026**



GATHERING

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

One: This is the good news:

ALL: God is throwing a party.

God is hosting a dinner.

God is preparing a banquet,

and all are invited.

One: Let us worship this invitational God.

***Hymn #392 Jesus, We Are Here**

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

*Loving God, you invite us
deeper into faith,*

deeper into relationship,

and deeper into community.

You invite us to your table,

but we cling to the wall.

We RSVP "Maybe."

We come up with excuses for why we can't attend.

Forgive us for doubting the invitation,

and forgive us for doubting our worth.

Show us how to respond to you with confidence instead of hesitancy,

and joy instead of doubt.

With gratitude we pray,

amen.

*Silent Confession

*Words of Forgiveness

*Sung Response #448 Peace of God Be With You

Am G F Am G F C

Peace of God be with you. Peace of God be with you. Sa -
As - sa - laa - mu la - kum. As - sa - laa - mu la - kum. Sa -

Dm F Am G F Am

laam, sa - laam. Peace of God be with you.
laam, sa - laam. As - sa - laa - mu la - kum.

The musical notation is written on two staves in 8/8 time. The first staff contains the first two phrases of the song, with chords Am, G, F, Am, G, F, and C indicated above the notes. The second staff contains the third phrase, with chords Dm, F, Am, G, F, and Am indicated above the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

*Passing of the Peace

(Share the peace of Christ with the people around you.)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Luke 14:15-24

New Testament, pp. 72-73

A Sermon in Three Voices

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection “Crowded Table” by The Highwomen

*You can hold my hand
When you need to let go
I can be your mountain
When you're feeling valley-low
I can be your streetlight
Showing you the way home
You can hold my hand
When you need to let go*

*I want a house with a crowded table
And a place by the fire for everyone
Let us take on the world while we're young and able
And bring us back together when the day is done*

*If we want a garden
We're gonna have to sow the seed
Plant a little happiness
Let the roots run deep
If it's love that we give
Then it's love that we reap
If we want a garden
We're gonna have to sow the seed*

*Yeah I want a house with a crowded table
And a place by the fire for everyone
Let us take on the world while we're young and able
And bring us back together when the day is done*

*The door is always open
Your picture's on my wall
Everyone's a little broken
And everyone belongs
Yeah, everyone belongs*

*I want a house with a crowded table
And a place by the fire for everyone
Let us take on the world while we're young and able
And bring us back together when the day is done
And bring us back together when the day is done*

Imposition of Ashes and Communion

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving & 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.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Please come forward down the center aisle to receive ashes and communion. The ashes will be placed on your forehead (if you prefer the hand, you may request that.) After you receive the ashes you can receive communion. Take a piece of bread and then dip it in the cup and partake. Those unable to come forward will be served at their seats.

***Hymn #769** For Everyone Born

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leaders: Neil Myer, Amanda Lanier

Pianist: Tamar Mikeladze, DMA

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Join us for Lent as we explore the series, “Tell me something good.”

Lent was originally a season for new converts to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Christianity. The series,

“Tell me something good” focuses on what are the core, foundational concepts of Jesus’ life and ministry? What makes each of these good news? Can we trust that the good news is truly good, even when it challenges us?



If we're being honest, we can easily distort or sanitize Jesus' teachings. Following Jesus leads to a richer, more expansive life, but it's not necessarily comfortable. We often describe Jesus' ministry as “radical” which comes from the Latin word “radicalis,” meaning “root” or “ground.” Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots, back to what grounds us: loving our neighbor, caring for the vulnerable, pursuing justice and mercy, and resting in God’s unending grace.

The good news is extravagant, untamed, illogical, and persistent. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed that flourishes rapidly into a tree to shelter the birds. It smells like expensive perfume poured from an alabaster jar and like crumbling bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like children laughing and like stones dropped to the ground instead of violently thrown. It feels like feet washed with tender care. The good news is alive in the world.

We hope this series will provide fertile ground for conversation and worship, rooting our hearts and lives in the expansive goodness of God. This Lent, may the teachings of Jesus lead us forward. Let the good news ground us. And let that good news inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see, and taste what is good.

The series at a glance

ASH WED.	1ST SUN IN LENT	2ND SUN IN LENT	3RD SUN IN LENT	4TH SUN IN LENT	5TH SUN IN LENT	PALM / PASSION SUNDAY	MAUNDY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	EASTER SUNDAY
The good news is... all are invited	The good news is... so good it catches us by surprise	The good news is... great love for God and neighbor	The good news is... together, the impossible is possible	The good news is... protection and care for the vulnerable	The good news is... rooted in justice, mercy, and faithfulness	The good news is... inspiring us to act	The good news is... even Judas gets his feet washed	The good news is... revealed through non-violence	The good news is... alive in the world
Luke <u>14:15-24</u> (Parable of the wedding banquet)	John <u>2:1-11</u> (Wedding at Cana) Matthew <u>13:31-32</u> (Parable of the mustard seed)	Luke <u>7:36-50</u> (Woman with the ointment) Matthew <u>25:35-40</u> (“Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me”)	Mark <u>6:32-44</u> (Feeding of the 5,000) Ephesians <u>3:20-21</u> (“By the power of work within us [God] is able to accomplish abundantly for more than all we can ask or imagine”)	Matthew <u>19:13-15</u> (Jesus blesses the children) Deuteronomy <u>26:17-22</u> (“Care for the alien, the orphan, and the widow”)	John <u>8:2-11</u> (Jesus refuses to condemn a woman caught in adultery) Matthew <u>23:23</u> (“You have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy, and faithfulness”)	Mark <u>11:1-11</u> (Triumphal entry into Jerusalem)	John <u>13:1-35</u> (Jesus washes the disciples’ feet)	Luke <u>22:47-53</u> Isaiah <u>53:4-6</u> (Judas’ betrayal) Jesus kneels the servant’s ear after his disciples draw swords; Jesus forgives those crucifying him)	Matthew <u>28:1-10</u> (“Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee, there they will see me”)