



FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

We gather in silence and meditation.

WELCOME

Xan Morgan

INVOCATION (Unison)

Holy One, Merciful God, make yourself known to us. Be present with us in this often troubled journey of life. Create in us hearts that are open to transformation. Give us the patience of practice in this Lent season – ordering our days with time enough for you. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17a

Sorbie Richner

Lector: The Word the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE PSALM

from Psalm 51

John Krienke

One: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

Many: according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

One: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Many: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

One: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Many: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

One: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Many: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

One: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2

Sorbie Richner

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 6:19-21

John Krienke

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HYMN (see insert)

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

INVITATION TO CONFESSION AND THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Xan Morgan

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF COMMITMENT

John Krienke

One: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and toward God, who is faithful and just, loving and compassionate?

Many: I turn my mind, my heart, and my life toward God.

One: Will you seek God with your whole heart, and follow where God's Spirit leads?

Many: I will, with God's help.

One: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

Many: I will, with God's help.

One: Your steadfast love endures forever, O God.

Many: From dust we came, to dust we will return; but your steadfast love endures forever.

One: We gather in penitence, we gather in confidence; we stand at the threshold of life.

Many: Restore us, O God, open the gate and turn us to follow your path again, to proclaim your love that endures forever.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

Xan Morgan

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

John Krienke & Xan Morgan

*Those who so desire may come forward to receive an imposition of ashes
as a sign of penitence not only for our individual sin,
but also in recognition of our complicity in the sin of the world.*

RECONCILIATION AND COMMENDATION

Xan Morgan

One: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Many: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

One: Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our Lord.

Many: To you, O Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

John Krienke

SUNG LORD'S PRAYER (see insert)

Shin-Ae will play it once through and then we sing together.

THE PEACE

Xan Morgan

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

People: And also with you.

All may exchange signs of peace and reconciliation.

BENEDICTION

John Krienke

All depart in quiet.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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