

EPISTLE LESSON.....2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

HYMN.....Jesus, Remember Me.....UMH 488

GOSPEL LESSON.....Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

HOMILY

Rev. Emily Sutton

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

The worship leader will take her place in front of the congregation and invite the people to come forward. The leader will dip a thumb in the ashes and make a cross on the forehead of each person saying, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" or "Repent, and believe the gospel."

BENEDICTION

**May God, who has forgiven us
now make us strong for these days ahead.**

May Jesus lead us, and we be found faithful to follow.

**May the Spirit drive us into the wilderness,
burning away the chaff of our lives,
and purifying our hearts for all to see
and be blessed.**

Pastor: And may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Mercy, Master, and Fire,
Be with us and remain with us always!

Go in peace, to love and serve God and your neighbor.

DEPART IN SILENCE



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
Bethel United Methodist Church

February 18, 2026
7:00 pm

GATHER IN SILENCE

GREETING

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: God's mercy endures forever.

COLLECT

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: O God, maker of everything and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of death you would raise us up.

By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON.....Joel 2:1-2,12-17

HYMN.....Have Thine Own Way, Lord.....UMH 382

CONFSSION—Psalm 51

Words below (read responsively)

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 only, have I sinned,
and done that which is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless in your judgment.

Behold, I was born into iniquity,
and I have been sinful since my mother conceived me.

Behold, 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;

Make me hear with joy and gladness;
let the bones which you have broken 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.

Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not 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 death, O God, God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall show forth your praise.

For you have no delight in sacrifice;
were I to give a burn 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.

PARDON

PASSING THE PEACE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

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