

# First Sunday in Lent February 22, 2026

**GATHERING:** *God invites us to enter His presence*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP** (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

 **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Hob Pusey*

Let us worship God, who has done great things.  
We rejoice in our God, who made a way  
through the desert of this world.  
Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy  
to flow in the wasteland.  
We are the people God has formed through Christ;  
we worship him, and we rejoice!  
Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.  
We praise God for the grace that has saved us.  
Alleluia! We rejoice!  
—based on Isaiah 43:19-21

 **INVOCATION**

*Hob Pusey*

All-knowing and all-caring God,  
we gather this day drained by another week.  
We are like a parched desert, empty and in need of replenishment.  
Visit us with your presence, saturate us with your Spirit,  
and bathe us in your streams of living water,  
that our lives might acknowledge and worship you  
to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ. **Amen!**  
—based on John 4:13-14; 7:37-38

 **OPENING HYMN 25**

*Immortal, Invisible*

**CONFESSING:** *God invites us to be honest with Him*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Hob Pusey*

Since we have confidence  
to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus,  
by the new and living way that he opened for us  
through the curtain (that is, through his flesh),  
and since we have a great priest over the house of God,  
let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith,  
with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience  
and our bodies washed with pure water.  
—Hebrews 10:19-22, NRSV

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Hob Pusey*

If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins,  
O Lord, who could stand?  
But with you there is forgiveness;  
therefore you are feared.  
I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,  
and in his word I put my hope.  
My soul waits for the Lord  
more than watchmen wait for the morning,  
more than watchmen wait for the morning.  
Almighty God, our Redeemer,  
in our weakness we have failed  
to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope.  
Renew us by your Holy Spirit,  
that we may follow your commands  
and proclaim your reign of love,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

—based on Psalm 130:3-6, NIV

## TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Hob Pusey*

Those who love me, I will deliver, says the Lord;  
I will protect those who know my name.  
When they call to me, I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble,  
I will rescue them and honor them  
and show them my salvation.  
Receive the good news of the gospel:  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

—based on Psalm 91:14-15, NRSV

*Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord*  
**All: Thanks be to God**



### GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
A-men, A-men*

**OFFERING:** *Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him*

**INVITATION** Let us give thanks to the Lord with all our being. In the company of the upright, let us honor God for the blessings and goodness we have received.

—based on Psalm 111:1

### OFFERING

**OFFERTORY** *People Get Ready*  
*Dan Baker, Greg Maurer*

*C. Mayfield*

## DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O Lord our God, the author and giver of all good things,  
we thank you for all your mercies,  
and for your loving care over all your creatures.  
We bless you for the gift of life, for your protection round about us,  
for your guiding hand upon us,  
and for the tokens of your love within us.  
In all these things, O heavenly God,  
make us wise for a right use of your benefits,  
that we may render an acceptable thanksgiving unto you  
all the days of our lives,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with You  
All: And also with you*

## PREPARATION HYMN 259 *Breathe On Me, Breath of God*

**PROCLAIMING:** *God speaks to us through His Work*

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Send your Spirit among us, O God,  
as we meditate on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.  
Prepare our minds to hear your Word.  
Move our hearts to accept what we hear.  
Purify our will to obey in joy and faith.  
This we pray through Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE READING *Ephesians 3:1-13*

**3** For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup> assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup> When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This

was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. <sup>13</sup> So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

**SERMON**

*“The Mystery of Christ”  
Rev. Dan Stewart*

 **HYMN OF RESPONSE 286**     *Blest Be The Tie That Binds*

**RESPONDING:** *We respond to God’s Word*

 **PROFESSION OF FAITH (In Unison)**

**During his whole life on earth,  
but especially at the end,  
Christ sustained  
in body and soul  
the wrath of God against the sin of the whole human race.  
This he did in order that,  
by his suffering as the only atoning sacrifice,  
he might deliver us, body and soul,  
from eternal condemnation,  
and gain for us God’s grace,  
righteousness, and eternal life.**

—Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 37

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE***(Responsively)*

God of grace and glory,  
in this season of repentance and hope:  
**Help us to turn away from evil and turn toward you.**  
We pray that your people everywhere  
will receive the courage  
**to turn away from evil and turn toward you.**  
We pray for the leaders of the nations and all people,  
**that they may turn away from evil and turn toward you.**  
We pray for every ministry of our community,  
that as we minister in your name,  
**we may turn away from evil and turn toward you.**  
We pray for each of us as we live among  
neighbors, people whom you love:  
**help us to turn away from evil and turn toward you.**  
We pray that even now as we worship you,  
your Holy Spirit will be at work,  
**teaching us how to turn away from evil and turn toward you.**  
*[After a brief silence, the leader concludes:]*  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
in this Lenten season,  
we hear your call to repentance.  
We pray for a generous outpouring of your Holy Spirit  
to help us resist evil in all its forms  
in our individual lives and institutions.  
Help us turn toward you,  
eager to receive the fullness of all you promise. **Amen.**

**COMMISSIONING**: *God sends us out into the world as His witnesses*

 **COMMISSION HYMN 108** *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

**BENEDICTION & BLESSING**

Grace and peace to you  
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,  
who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age,  
according to the will of our God and Father,  
to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

—Galatians 1:2-5, NIV

**POSTLUDE**

 *Please stand if you are able.*