



Ash Wednesday Worship A Service of Scripture and Prayer

February 18, 2026

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen

Tell Me Something GOOD: All Are Invited

Opening Sentences

- From dust we came, and to dust we shall return. We have nothing and yet possess everything. We are dying and yet we are alive.
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship

If God threw a party,

all would be invited.

If God hosted a dinner,

there'd be a seat saved for each of us.

If God prepared a banquet,

a cheer would go up when you arrived.

This is the good news:

God is throwing a party.

God is hosting a dinner.

God is preparing a banquet,

and all are invited.

Let us join together in worshiping the God who invites.

Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.

O Spirit, wake in us the wonder of your power;
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives like springtime bud and flower.

Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.

Three-personed God, fulfill the promise of your grace;
that we, when all our searching ends, may see you face to face.

Prayer of the Day

Faithful God,
we seek to follow the ways of your Son, Jesus.
Cleanse our hearts and minds
from all that might be a distraction.
Renew in us a desire to worship you,
so we may be an example
of your love and grace for the world.
In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

Passing the Peace

As companions on a Lenten pilgrimage of penitence and seeking, let us
greet one another with the Peace of Christ.

The peace of our Lord be with you all. / **And also with you.**

Call to Confession

Family of faith, if someone declines our invitations again and again,
eventually our human tendency is to stop inviting them. We get the hint.
We assume they'd rather be elsewhere. We don't need to keep setting
ourselves up for rejection.

With God, things are different.

No matter how many times we overlook or ignore

God's outstretched hand, God will never stop reaching for us.

So, with that good news in mind, let us go to God in prayer.

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 forgiving 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.

Words of Assurance

Friends, no matter how many times we mess up,
no matter how many times we lose our way,
no matter how many times we decline God's invitation,
God will never stop inviting us to the table.

There is and always will be a seat saved for each of us.

So join me in these words of good news:

We are forgiven, again and again.

We are invited, again and again.

We are loved, from beginning to end.

Thanks be to God, the One who Invites. Amen.

Act of Praise Change My Heart, O God / *Cámbiame, Señor* GG #695

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the Potter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

Cámbiame, Señor, con tu gran poder.

Hazme como tú, tu yo quiero ser.

Tú el alfarero, yo el barro soy.

Sólo a tu imagen, quiero siempre ser.

Cámbiame, Señor, con tu gran poder.

Hazme como tú, tu yo quiero ser.

Prayer for Illumination

Table-setting God,
this Lent we do not want to miss your invitation.
We do not want to be so caught up in our own business
that we miss the holiness right in front of us.
So settle our hearts and open our spirits to hear your word anew.
Help us to hear your good news today.
With hope we pray. Amen.

Anthem

Gospel Reading Luke 14:15-24: **The Parable of the Great Dinner**

¹⁵One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, “Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!” ¹⁶Then Jesus said to him, “Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. ¹⁷At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is ready now.’ ¹⁸But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.’ ¹⁹Another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.’ ²⁰Another said, ‘I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.’ ²¹So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, ‘Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’ ²²And the slave said, ‘Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.’ ²³Then the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. ²⁴For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.’”

The Word of the Lord / **Thanks be to God.**



Lauren Wright Pittman
There is Still Room

Ash Wednesday Reflection

Hymn

For Everyone Born, v 1-3

GG #769

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead --

*Refrain: And God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!*

For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair -- *Refrain*

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong -- *Refrain*

Invitation to Observance of a Holy Lent

Friends in Christ,
today we enter the season of Lent
We journey toward Jerusalem and the cross,
following Jesus on the path of love
that leads through death
to resurrection.

We are invited to this Lenten fast
by the God who loves justice
and desires freedom and plenty for all people.

We are invited to join in the work
of sharing our food with the hungry,
satisfying the needs of the afflicted,
and turning away from serving only our own interests.



On this Lenten journey toward the cross,
we are invited to hear the good news of God's love
and receive the gift of God's mercy,
for each of us and for all of us.

As we enter the season of Lent,
may our thoughts be worthy of our Lord
and our actions be faithful to our call.

Hymn of Intention Sign Us with Ashes, refrain GG #433

Sign us with ashes, merciful God,
children of dust, as to dust we return.
Sign us with ashes, merciful God.
Mark us and make us your own.

Imposition of Ashes

Let us pray:
Almighty God,
you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
May these ashes be to us
a sign of our mortality and penitence,
so that we may remember
that it is only by your gracious gift
that we are given everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

*Please come forward to receive the sign of ashes
or remain seated and we will come to you.*

Following the Imposition of Ashes

**We are creatures of the sovereign triune God:
mortal and beloved,
sinful and redeemed.
From dust we have come,
to dust we shall return.
Holy is the Lord.**

Let us pray:

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of our Savior,
bring us with all your saints
to the joy of Christ's resurrection.

We pray this, as we pray all things, in the name of our Lord, who taught us
to pray together, saying: **Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

Hymn

When We Are Living / *Pues se vivimos*

GG #822

v. 1 in English and in Spanish

When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus, and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying, we belong to God; we belong to God.

Pues si vivimos, para Él vivimos, y si morimos para Él morimos.

Sea que vivamos o que muramos, somos del Señor, somos del Señor.

Benediction

Go in peace,
ready to hear and to share
God's invitation into good news.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
abide with you always. Amen.



Postlude

Much of the liturgy in this service has been adapted from liturgy by Sarah A. Speed | A
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