

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

WYOMING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Family Centered Service
To Begin the Lenten Journey

WELCOME

Rev. Beverly Friedlander

We welcome you to this time of worship.

*May you experience the grace and mercy of your loving God
in this time with long-time friends and people who are becoming friends.*

Home Worship Guideline

If you are worshipping at home on this special night, you may use this service with your family around the dinner table or afterward. You will need a bit of olive oil or water and a little bit of the ash from a previously lit candle wick, if you have nothing safe to burn for a small amount of ash.

Worshipping Solo?

If you are eating and worshipping solo, use each section as a journal prompt or a moment of personal reflection and consider writing a letter to yourself or to a trusted friend to continue the conversation. Remember that wherever you are, the Spirit of God binds us together and we are never alone.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE MEAL

at your table

Introduce yourself and discuss:

Share the words of the blessing, thanksgiving, prayer that you remember from childhood, if any. Do you say thanks when you eat at home now? When are you out at restaurants?

Enjoy the Food, Fellowship and Sharing

Enjoy the food and time together. You might share what kind of **pancake** and **syrup** is your favorite (plain, wheat, blueberry, pecan, etc.) and what kind of **cake** is your favorite. What food /meal is your favorite?

Share a story about a special family meal (friend meal) that you will remember always. How old were you? Who made the food? Who was there, etc.? What made it special?

What food would be the hardest food to give up and not eat for 2 whole months!?

Ash Wednesday Liturgy

John 3: 16

Ps. 103:8

Call to Worship

One: The Lord is merciful and gracious,

ALL: The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in love.

Hymn 188**Jesus Loves Me****JESUS LOVES ME**

Jesus loves me~ This I know; for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee, saying, “let them come to me.”

Lesson**What Do We Believe****Belonging to God Catechism**

Table Talk – Choose a person to act as the “One,” who will guide the conversation at the table. Share the question and discuss each answer briefly. Before moving to the next Q&A, “memorize” aloud by repeating it together 3 times.

One: Question 1. Who are you?

ALL: I am a child of God.

One: Question 2. What does it mean to be a child of God?

ALL: That I belong to God, who loves me.

One: Question 3. What makes you a child of God?

ALL: Grace -- God's free gift of love that I do not deserve and cannot earn.

One: Question 4. Don't you have to be good for God to love you?

ALL: No. God loves me in spite of all I do wrong.

One: Question 5. How do you thank God for this gift of love?

ALL: I promise to love and trust God with all my heart.

One: Question 6. How do you love God?

ALL: By worshipping God, by loving others, and by respecting what God has created.

Reflection**Like I'm Five****Rev. Bev****Trumpets**

Joel 2: 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly.

Candlelight

Isaiah 58: 6-8a Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn.

Ashes

Daniel 9:3-5 Then I turned to the Lord God to seek an answer by prayer and supplication with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, “Ah, Lord, great and awesome God, keeping covenant and steadfast love with those who love you and keep your commandments, we have sinned and done

wrong, acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and ordinances.

Oil

Matthew 6: 17-18, 21 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you...For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Song**Be Careful Little Eyes**

V. 1 O be careful little eyes what you see

O be careful little eyes what you see

For the Lord is up above

And looking down in love

So, be careful little eyes what you see

V. 2 O be careful little ears what you hear

O be careful little ears what you hear

For the Lord is up above

And looking down in love

So, be careful little ears what you hear

V. 3 O be careful little tongue what you say...

V. 4 O be careful little hands what you do...

V. 5 O be careful little feet where you go...

Blessing

God in peace to love and serve the Lord. **AMEN.**

Those who desire to leave may do so as they prefer, as we move into a:

CLASSIC CONFESSORIAL LITURGY**Contemplative Silence**

Matthew 6: 1-2 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others."

Affirmation

One: God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble.

**ALL: Therefore, we will not fear though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
God's love endures forever.**

Prayer of Confession

ALL: Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: ...your Holy Spirit. **ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.**

One: ...in daily life and work. **ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.**

One: ...toward those who differ from us, **ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.**

One: ...show us your steadfast love. **ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.**

ALL: Restore us, O God of our salvation and show us your steadfast love. Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us.

Gospel

One: Hear the good news according to John:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him but that the world might be saved through him. And in Matthew, the gracious words of our redeemer Jesus Christ:

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Hymn 418**Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling**

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.

See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

“Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home.”

Earnestly, tenderly. Jesus is calling, calling, “O sinner, come home!”

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me?

O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!

Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.

Benediction

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. May the God of peace make you holy in every way and keep you whole being—spirit, soul, and body—free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.