

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



Ash
WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

GATHERING MUSIC

IN A DEEP, UNBOUNDED DARKNESS
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

“DIVINUM MYSTERIUM”

Reflective Text:

In a deep unbounded darkness
Long before the first light shone,
You, O God, beyond all merit
Worked a wonder faith makes known:
In your mercy, in your mercy,
You embraced us as your own,
Evermore and evermore.

Though our world is everchanging,
You are constant, firm and sure
Faithful to your covenant promise.
Trusting you, we live secure:
Singing praises, singing praises,
Long as heart and breath endure,
Evermore and evermore.

Joy transforms our lips to boasting
Only in your matchless grace,
Sending Christ to dwell among us,
Word made flesh in time and space:
Friend and Savior, Friend and Savior,
Evermore and evermore.

God of Hagar, God of Sarah,
God of nomad Abraham;
God of Miryam, God of Moses,
Fiery pillar, great I AM:
Lead us homeward, lead us homeward,
To the love-feast on the Lamb,
Evermore and evermore.

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENT

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come burdened by regrets, trembling in our mourning.

We know that the Lord is gracious and merciful, and we trust that God will lift our burdens.

As one people, with all our differences, we give ourselves to God, seeking healing and redemption.

In honesty and repentance, we worship the Lord and bless God's holy name.

Let us pray:

God of wisdom and mercy, we turn to you aware of our need for you. In a season of wandering, we pray that you will guide us along right paths: paths of curiosity when we are disillusioned, paths of hope when we despair, paths of open doors when we are stuck, and paths of transformation when we are corrupted.

Wipe the stain of shame from our brows and mark us instead with the sign of your holy presence, so that we may travel with you in renewed joy and courage, living as your people and acting with your wisdom and mercy, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SONG #824

THERE IS A PLACE OF QUIET REST

"MC AFEE"

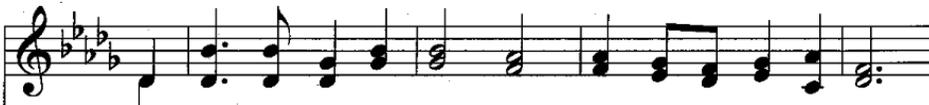


1 There is a place of qui - et rest, near to the heart of God,
2 There is a place of com - fort sweet, near to the heart of God,
3 There is a place of full re - lease, near to the heart of God,



a place where sin can - not mo - lest, near to the heart of God.
a place where we our Sav - ior meet, near to the heart of God.
a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God.

Refrain



O Je - sus, blest Re - deem - er, sent from the heart of God,



hold us, who wait be - fore thee, near to the heart of God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, this is a hard time. The focus of Lent is on the pain and suffering of Jesus and our own need for penitence. It is a time of gathering darkness. But we would rather skip this part and go straight to Easter. We would rather ignore the suffering—in you and in the world—and avoid the hard work of true self-examination. Forgive us for wanting this to be bright and painless and easy, when we know that Jesus did not take the easy way, but chose the path of the Cross. Teach us the true meaning of penitence, so that we use this Lenten season to humbly seek a clean heart and a renewed spirit. We pray in the name Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 58:1-12

REFLECTION

"SILENCE FROM ASHES"

REV. ALISON PETERS

BLESSING OF ASHES

(All are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes.)

You may receive ashes on your forehead or your hand, please let the pastor know which you prefer.)

SONG DURING IMPOSITION #470

THERE IS A LONGING IN OUR HEARTS

"LONGING"

Refrain *Dm All Gm C F*

There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for
 you to re-veal your-self to us.

There is a long-ing in our hearts for love we
 on-ly find in you, our God.

(hold last time) FINE

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 For jus - tice, | for free - dom, | for mer - cy: |
| 2 For wis - dom, | for cour - age, | for com - fort: |
| 3 For heal - ing, | for whole-ness, | for new life: |
| 4 Lord save us, | take pit - y, | Light in our |

hear our prayer. In sor - row, in grief:
 hear our prayer. In weak - ness, in fear:
 hear our prayer. In sick - ness, in death:
 dark - ness. We call you; we wait:
 to Kerrain

be near; hear our prayer, O God.

PRAYER FOR THE NIGHT

SONG #722

LORD, SPEAK TO ME THAT I MAY SPEAK

"CANONBURY"

| |
|--|
| 1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak in liv - ing |
| 2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wan - dering |
| 3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the pre - cious |
| 4 O fill me with your full - ness, Lord, un - til my |
| 5 O use me, Lord, use e - ven me, just as you |

ech - oes of your tone. As you have sought, so
 and the wa - vering feet. O feed me, Lord, that
 truths which you im - part. And wing my words that
 ver - y heart o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and
 will, and when, and where un - til your bless - ed

let me seek your err - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
 I may feed your hun - gering ones with man - na sweet.
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - ya heart.
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.