

# ASH WEDNESDAY

Franklin United Methodist Church  
PO Box 313, 82 W Central Street, Franklin, MA 02038

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, we gather to prepare for our journey through Lent, a journey of repentance and mercy.

**We gather to be renewed in God's mercy.**

We gather to confess, to tell the truth about sin and our dependence on God's grace.

**We gather to call upon God's mercy.**

We gather to repent, to receive and cooperate with grace as we turn from sin and toward love of God and neighbor.

**We gather to live in the promise of God's mercy.**

People of God, we gather to worship God, whose steadfast mercy and love never fail!

**We gather to worship, trusting in God's mercy as we follow Jesus on the road to new life.**

## "ETERNAL GOD TRANSCENDING TIME"

No. 3030, *Worship & Song* (2011)

## OPENING PRAYER

### READING

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—<sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains, a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. <sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God? <sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her canopy. <sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar, let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

## "WHERE IS GOD?"

Song performed by Michael Farren  
Written by Michael Farren, Alisa Turner, and Danny O'Callaghan

## REFLECTION

### "God is Here"

No. 660, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (2001)

## INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

## THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

### IMPOSITION OF ASHES

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

### "LORD, HAVE MERCY"

No. 2277, *The Faith We Sing* (2001)

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### THE PEACE

### OFFERING

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

No. 895 in *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

**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.  
Amen.**

## "LET OUR EARTH BY PEACEFUL"

No. 3159, *Worship & Song* (2011)

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

## news & events

### LENTEN DEVOTION & DISCUSSION

You're invited to start a regular devotional practice this Lent. Pickup a 2026 Upper Room Disciplines as a daily practice. These short daily readings, include a scripture reading, devotion, and prayer. Books are \$20 and are for the entire 2026 calendar year. Limited regular and large print copies are available.

If a daily practice seems like too much, start a weekly practice by reading the scriptures on your own before Sunday Worship. Scripture readings will be posted weekly in the bulletin.

Join Pastor Jacob virtually on Wednesdays at 7pm to discuss the scriptures coming up in Sunday Worship. For joining information see the Church Calendar or email the [office@franklinumc.org](mailto:office@franklinumc.org).

### LUNCH BUNCH

The next gathering will be at The Chateau (466 King St, Franklin) on Wednesday, February 18th at 12 PM. All are welcome. Please notify Nancy Boates by phone or email by 10 am if attending.

### BOOK CLUB

The FUMC Book Club is reading *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans. The next meeting will be on Monday March 9th at 6:30 pm. The group will meet in a hybrid format at Dawn's house and online (<https://meet.goto.com/richp/churchbookclub>) or by phone (224-501-3412, access code 789-141-869).

### FOOD PANTRY

This month we will be collecting personal care items- soap, shampoo/conditioner, toilet paper, etc. All items will be brought over to the Franklin Food Pantry at the end of the month. Thank you!

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Go to [www.franklinumc.org/volunteer](http://www.franklinumc.org/volunteer) to sign up and volunteer for Worship or Community events.

### This Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 2

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9