

# Ash Wednesday Service



Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – 7:00 PM  
PORT EDWARDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**The Rev. Caleb McGregor, *pastor at PEUMC***  
**Pastor Mary Wright, *associate pastor at NUCC***

Sue M., *accompanist*  
Sharon S., *greeter*  
Leo T., *usher*

*Refreshments:*

Sue T.  
Lucy S.  
Kathy M.  
Sharon S.

**THOUGHTS FOR THE EVENING:**

“Ash Wednesday is full of joy . . . The source of all our sorrow is the illusion that we are anything but dust.”

-Thomas Merton

“Faith does not eliminate questions, but it knows where to take them.”

-Elisabeth Elliot

*[Please silence your mobile devices. Thank you!]*

*[Tonight's service is 'unplugged'; all liturgy is printed in the bulletins, not on the screens.]*

M – Pastor Mary / C – Pastor Caleb / **P – the people read** / \* – stand in body or spirit

TFWS – *The Faith We Sing* / UMH – *The United Methodist Hymnal*

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**We, God's Beloved Siblings . . .**

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We, the People of Port Edwards United Methodist Church,  
have a mission to be, and to make, NEW disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of our community and the World!

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**. . . Enter with our Old Lives . . .**

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**OPENING HYMN:**     *Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes*     **TFWS 2138**

*(The first line of this hymn recalls the custom of burning leftover palm leaves of the previous year's Palm Sunday to create the ashes for tonight's observance.)*

Words: Rae E. Whitney / Music: attributed to B. F. White

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**♪ Vs. 1: Sunday's palms are Wednesday's ashes as another Lent begins;  
thus we kneel before our Maker in contrition for our sins.**

**We have marred baptismal pledges, in rebellion gone astray;  
now, returning, seek forgiveness; grant us pardon, God, this day!**

**Vs. 2: We have failed to love our neighbors, their offenses to forgive,  
have not listened to their troubles, nor have cared just how they live,  
we are jealous, proud, impatient, loving over much our things;  
may the yielding of our failings be our Lenten offerings.**

**Vs. 3: We are hasty to judge others, blind to proof of human need;  
and our lack of understanding demonstrates our inner greed;  
we have wasted earth's resources; want and suffering we've ignored;  
come and cleanse us, then restore us; make new hearts within us, Lord! ♪**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

M: Come, people of God, to this holy beginning of Lent.

**P: We come, seeking truth and mercy.**

C: Yes, we *are* dust and to dust we shall return –

**P: but we are beloved stardust, held in the palm of God's hands.**

M: God meets us in wilderness wanderings  
and gathers up the broken pieces of our lives.

**P: We trust in the One who restores us and makes us new again.**

C: Let us worship the God whose grace finds us in the ashes,

**ALL: and whose love carries us into new life of Easter Joy: AMEN!**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE TAIZÉ SERVICE

*The Bells Toll*

ADORAMUS TE DOMINE:

*We Adore You*

♪ **\*\*\*hum\*\*\* We adore you, Lord Jesus Christ!** *(keep repeating)*

**\*\*\*hum\*\*\* Adoramus te Domine!** *(keep repeat)* ♪

*[ah-do-rah-moos tay doh-me-nay]*

## PRAYER OF GOD'S PRESENCE

HEBREW LESSON:

Psalm 23 (KJV)

M: The LORD is my shepherd;

**P: I shall not want.**

M: He mak'eth me to lie down in green pastures:

**P: He lead'eth me beside the still waters.**

M: He restor'eth my soul:

**P: He lead'eth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.**

M: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

**P: I will fear no evil:**

M: for thou art with me;

**P: thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

M: Thou prepar'est a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

**P: thou anoint'est my head with oil; my cup runn'eth over.**

M: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

**ALL: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever! AMEN!**

\*GOSPEL LESSON:

John 10:1-18 (KJV)

M: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ. **ALL: Thanks be to God!**

MEDITATION:

**WALK WITH THE SHEPHERD**

♪ **Come and fill our hearts – with Your peace.  
You alone, O Lord, are holy.**

**Come and fill our hearts – with Your peace -- \*\*\*hum\*\*\*** ♪  
(keep repeating)

## INVITATION TO OBSERVE THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

*(ends with)*

C: Will you join your siblings-in-Christ in this work?

**P: By God's grace, I will observe a holy Lent!**

## CONFESSION AND LITANY OF PENITENCE

**ALL: Most holy and merciful Creator,**

**we confess unto Thee, and to one another,**

**and to the whole communion of saints,**

**in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned, through our own fault,**

**in thought, word, and deed;**

**by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved Thee with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.**

**We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves,**

**nor have we forgiven others, just as we have been forgiven.**

**We have failed to heed Thy call to serve, as Christ serves us,**

**and we have abandoned the mind of Christ.**

M: Merciful God . . . **P: this is our heartfelt confession!**

M: For all our unfaithfulness and disobedience;

for the pride, vanity, and hypocrisy inside our lives;

Merciful God . . . **P: this is our heartfelt confession!**

M: For our self-pity and impatience,

and our envy of those we think more fortunate than ourselves;

Merciful God . . . **P: this is our heartfelt confession!**

M: For our unrighteous anger, bitterness, and resentment;

for all our lies, gossip, and slander against our neighbors;

Merciful God . . . **P: this is our heartfelt confession!**

M: For our abuse and exploitation of other people,

and our failure to give of ourselves in Christian love;

Merciful God . . . **P: this is our heartfelt confession!**

M: For our self-indulgent appetites and self-absorbed ways,  
and our greedy pursuit of worldly goods and comforts;  
Merciful God . . . **P: this is our heartfelt confession!**

M: For our dishonesty in daily life and work,  
our ungratefulness for Thy gifts, and our failure to follow Thy call.  
Merciful God . . . **P: this is our heartfelt confession!**

M: For our blindness to human need and suffering,  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty;  
Merciful God . . . **P: this is our heartfelt confession!**

M: For our wastefulness and misuse of Thy good creation,  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us;  
Merciful God . . . **P: this is our heartfelt confession!**

M: For all false judgments, for prejudice and disapproval of others,  
and for all spiteful thoughts toward our neighbors;  
Merciful God . . . **P: this is our heartfelt confession!**

M: For our negligence to be in prayer & worship; for our avoidance of Thy means of grace;  
Merciful God . . . **P: this is our heartfelt confession!**

M: For seeking the praise of humankind rather than the will of God;  
Merciful God . . . **P: this is our heartfelt confession!**

M: For our failure to trust the faith that is in us,  
and to effectively pass it on to the next generations.  
Merciful God . . . **P: this is our heartfelt confession!**

M: Thou art a merciful God, full of compassion and patience,  
slow to anger, and of great kindness. Hear our prayer!

## PRAYER OF SILENCE

*silence is kept for 3 minutes*

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

C: Hear the Good News, friends:

*“God so loved the world, that God gave the only-begotten Son, to the end  
that all who believe in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” [John 3:16]*

*“He came into this world to save us from our own sin!” [1 Timothy 1:15]*

C: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**P: In the name of Jesus Christ, *you* are forgiven!**

**ALL: GLORY TO GOD! AMEN!**

## PRAYER OVER THE 'STARDUSTED' ASHES

### \*IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

*You are invited to come forward to have the sign of the cross, in ashes,  
placed on your forehead or on the back of your hand.*

*You are invited to bring your "Sin Card" forward and place it on the Communion Table.*

NADA TE TURBE:

*Nothing Can Trouble*

TFWS 2054

**Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.**

**\*Those who seek God shall never go wanting.**

*(keep repeating)*

*\*Last time: God alone – fills – us.*

### BURNING OF THE 'SIN CARDS'

**ALL: O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire Thee with our whole heart:  
that desiring Thee, we may seek Thee;  
and that seeking Thee, we may find Thee;  
and that finding Thee, we may love Thee;  
and that loving Thee, we may hate those sins  
from which Thou hast already delivered us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord: AMEN!**

### \*CLOSING HYMN:

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

(UMH 381)

Words: attributed to Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1836 (John 10:1-29) Music: William B. Bradbury, 1859

***Vs. 1: Savior, like a shepherd lead us,  
much we need Your tender care;  
in Your pleasant pastures feed us,  
for our use Your folds prepare.***

***Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
You have bought us, Yours we are. (2x)***

***Vs. 2: We are Yours, in love befriend us,  
be the guardian of our way;  
keep Your flock, from sin defend us,  
seek us when we go astray.***

***Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
hear Your children when we pray. (2x)***

**\*SENDING FORTH WITH A LENTEN BLESSING**

*M: Go forth into Lent by the strength of God's mercy.*

C: May the Creator make you strong for these days ahead.

May the Redeemer now lead you into faithfulness.

May the Sustainer drive you into the wilderness

where hearts are purified and sin is burned away forever.

*M: And the Holy Trinity will be ever at your back! **ALL: AMEN!***

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**. . . and leave with New Life!**

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**Translation of Latin Titles:**

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ADORAMUS TE DOMINE:

We Adore You, Lord

CONFITEMINI DOMINO:

God thanks to God, who is good.

NADA TE TURBE:

Let nothing disturb you