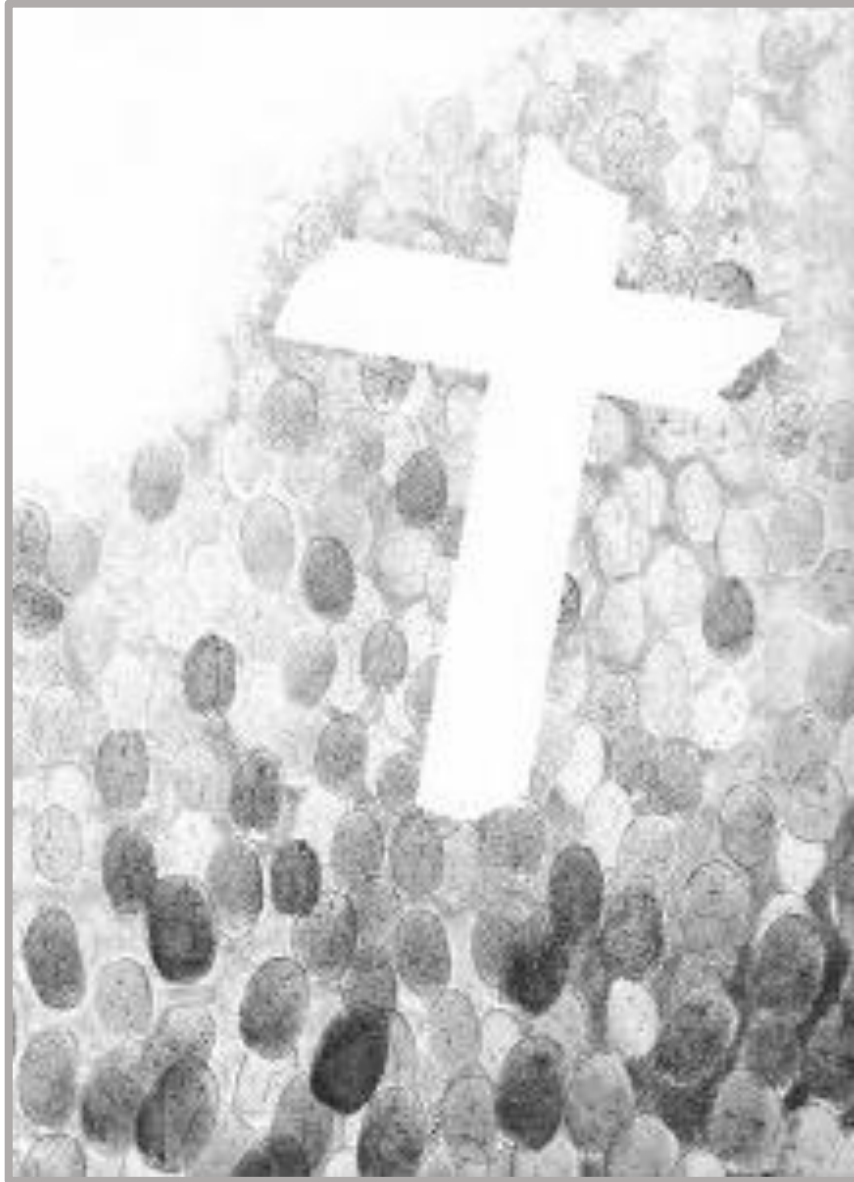


# Emmanuel Church

The Episcopal Church on Mercer Island



**THE LITURGY FOR ASH WEDNESDAY**

**FEBRUARY 18, 2026, AT 12:00 P.M.**

## Ash Wednesday

Our worship today, with which we begin the season of Lent, immerses us in themes of self examination and repentance – themes to which we'll often return in the coming weeks. Christians have shared in worship like this, at the beginning of Lent, since at least the 10th century; and ashes have been used on this day since at least the 12th century.

The Imposition of Ashes is an optional part of the service. Those who wish to take part are invited to come forward after the Lenten Exhortation and blessing of the ashes. The ashes will be administered standing, with the sign of the cross made on the forehead. The words for the Imposition – “*Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*” – are taken from God’s exhortation to Adam and Eve after the Fall in the Garden of Eden. (Genesis 3:19b)

Interestingly, and provocatively, the appointed Bible readings for today call into question the authenticity of outward religious practices. (One may assume that ashes on the forehead would qualify.) Listen for the challenges by Isaiah and Jesus in the first reading and gospel. The contradiction is intentional. It is meant to lead each of us to double-check the connections between our stated faith, our inner experience of God, and the actual commitments of our lives.

Please look for opportunities to share, as you are able, in upcoming Lenten gatherings, intended as opportunities to enrich both personal faith and our parish connections with one another. And please contact me if you are accustomed to offering a personal sacramental confession in Lent and wish to do so, or if you are curious about being instructed in doing so.



The Rev. Patrick Raymond, Interim Rector

## THE WORD OF GOD

**PRELUDE** - “O Mensch Bewein Dein Sunde Gross”

J.S. Bach

## THE SALUTATION

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
*People* **His mercy endures for ever.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Let us Pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE LESSONS

### A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT – Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

*Lector* A reading from the Book of the prophet Joel.

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--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.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

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?'"

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### THE PSALM – 103:8-14

*Read Responsively*

8. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.
9. He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
10. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
11. For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
12. As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.
13. As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
14. For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
he remembers that we are but dust.

## **A READING FROM THE EPISTLES – 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10**

*Lector* A reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## **HYMN - Hymnal 1982 #142 "Lord, who throughout these forty days"**

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL – Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

*All standing, the Priest says to the People*

The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety 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. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. 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.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

*After the Gospel the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **ASH WEDNESDAY REFLECTION** The Rev. Patrick Raymond

### **THE LENTEN EXHORTATION**

*After the message, all stand. The Celebrant invites the people to the observance of a holy Lent, saying*

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.*

*The Celebrant prays*

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

*All who wish to may come forward. The ashes are imposed with the following words*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*The following Psalm is then said in unison, all kneeling as able.*

## **PSALM 51**

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your loving-kindness;  
in your great compassion  
blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my  
wickedness  
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight.

And so you are justified when you speak  
and upright in your judgment.

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

For behold, you look for truth deep within me,  
and will make me understand  
wisdom secretly.

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Make me hear of joy and gladness,  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving help again  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

I shall teach your ways to the wicked,  
and sinners shall return to you.

Deliver me from death, O God,  
and my tongue shall sing  
of your righteousness,  
O God of my salvation.

Open my lips, O Lord,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Had you desired it,  
I would have offered sacrifice;  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you  
will not despise.

## **LITANY OF PENITENCE**

*The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling*

Most holy and merciful Father: 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.

*The Celebrant continues*

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.

*Have mercy on us, Lord.*

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

*Have mercy on us, Lord.*

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

*We confess to you, Lord.*

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

*We confess to you, Lord.*

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

*We confess to you, Lord.*

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

*We confess to you, Lord.*

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

*We confess to you, Lord.*

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

*Accept our repentance, Lord.*

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

*Accept our repentance, Lord.*

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

*Accept our repentance, Lord.*

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

*Favorably bear us, for your mercy is great.*

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

*That we may show forth your glory in the world.*

By the cross and passion of Jesus Christ, Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

*The Priest, stands and, facing the people, says*

Almighty God, the Father of our Savior Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. Our God pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech our Creator and Redeemer to grant us true repentance and the renewal of the Holy Spirit, that those things which we do on this day and the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to share in eternal joy with all the saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.** *Please share the Peace of Christ with others.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

*Part of our spiritual practice as Christians is to support the mission of the church through financial donations. You may give in the plate or online using PayPal. To donate via PayPal, simply scan this QR code and follow the instructions.*



*Information on receiving Communion may be found on page 11.*

**OFFERTORY** – “Ich ruf zu dir, herr Jesu Christ”

J.S. Bach

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** *Eucharistic Prayer A, The Book of Common Prayer (Expanded Language)*

*The People remain standing, as able.*

*Celebrant* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Savior, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People* **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The People stand or kneel as the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker and of all. Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.



On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People* **Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now as our savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread; after a brief silence, all share in the Agnus Dei as indicated.*

## THE AGNUS DEI

*Celebrant* Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
*People* **have mercy on us.**  
*Celebrant* Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
*People* **have mercy on us.**  
*Celebrant* Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
*People* **grant us your peace.**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All are welcome to participate in communion at Emmanuel. Primarily our communion takes place at the altar rail. You can stand or kneel. If you want to abstain from the bread or wine, please cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available. If the steps to the altar rail present a challenge for you, you may stand at the bottom of the stairs, or ask an usher to have communion brought to you in your seat.*

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER.** *Please stand or kneel as you are able.*

*The Celebrant says* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People* Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of Christ, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

**THE SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE** *The people may stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant* Let us humble ourselves before our God.

Most merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**PROCESSION – Hymnal 1982 #149** “Eternal Lord of love, behold your church”

*The Celebrant dismisses the People.*

*All respond to the Dismissal:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Blessing the Dust**  
***For Ash Wednesday***  
by Jan Richardson

All those days  
you felt like dust,  
like dirt,  
as if all you had to do  
was turn your face  
toward the wind  
and be scattered  
to the four corners  
or swept away  
by the smallest breath  
as insubstantial—  
did you not know  
what the Holy One  
can do with dust?

This is the day  
we freely say  
we are scorched.  
This is the hour  
we are marked  
by what has made it  
through the burning.  
This is the moment  
we ask for the blessing  
that lives within  
the ancient ashes,  
that makes its home  
inside the soil of  
this sacred earth.

So let us be marked  
not for sorrow.  
And let us be marked  
not for shame.  
Let us be marked  
not for false humility  
or for thinking  
we are less  
than we are  
but for claiming  
what God can do  
within the dust,  
within the dirt,  
within the stuff  
of which the world  
is made  
and the stars that blaze  
in our bones  
and the galaxies that spiral  
inside the smudge  
we bear.



## **Covenant for Our Common Life and Witness**

*We, the members, staff, and clergy of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, aspire to personally and collectively demonstrate and advocate the following principles in all of our relationships.*

1. **We Demonstrate Christ's Command to Love One Another**, treating all with generosity, kindness, and empathy. *"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12*
2. **We Respect the Dignity of Every Person**, listening to one another and honoring differences.  
*Jesus said, "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets." Matthew 7:12*
3. **We Speak Truth in Love**, sharing our hopes, concerns, and perspectives in a spirit of collaboration.  
*"Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body." Ephesians 4:25*
4. **We Promptly Address Conflicts and Pursue Reconciliation**, whenever and with whomever it is needed, seeking to heal and restore broken relationships.  
*"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32*
5. **We Promote Unity**, acknowledging that we share a love for this community and its future.  
*"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:3*
6. **We Practice Humility**, recognizing the needs, concerns and interests of others alongside our own.  
*"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit." Philippians 2:3a. "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8*
7. **We Pray For Each Other, the Church, Our Community, and Our World.**  
*"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for all people." 1 Timothy 2:1*

*By way of this covenant, we seek to share in a parish community  
that reflects Christ's love and peace to all, where every person is valued and respected,  
and where we work together for the common good of the church, our community and our world.*

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**Clergy and Staff:** The Rev. Patrick Raymond, Interim Rector; Fred McIlroy, Director of Music;  
Julene Levin, Parish Administrator; John Pritchard, Bookkeeper

**2026 Emmanuel Vestry:** Michael Spencer, Senior Warden; Pat Angell, Janet Bell, Stacy Dimmich, Nathan Ihle,  
Sandy Maloof, Leslie Moore, Marcia Palk, Sue Stiles. [askvestry@emmanuelmi.org](mailto:askvestry@emmanuelmi.org)