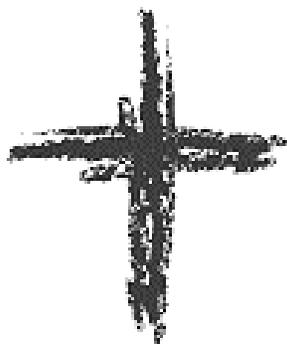


Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.



ASH WEDNESDAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF HASTINGS

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

Leading Worship: Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett, Rev. Damen Jensen-Heitmann
Organist – Linda Vollweiler, Chancel Choir directed by Dr. Robin Koozer

(*Indicates the congregation shall stand as they are able.)

PRELUDE “Meditation” *Douglas E. Wagner*
Organist Linda Vollweiler

WELCOME Greg Allen-Pickett

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Joel 2)

Blow the horn in Zion; give a shout on my holy mountain!

Let all the people of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming.

It is near— a day of darkness and no light, a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread out upon the mountains and the plains.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your hearts,

With fasting, with weeping, and with sorrow;

Tear your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord your God, for God is merciful and compassionate;

God is very patient, full of faithful love, and ready to forgive.

We come to reflect and repent. We come to recognize that we need Jesus.

We come to begin the journey to the cross during this Season of Lent.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Damen Jensen-Heitmann

Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

We have many treasures on earth that we hold too dearly,

That we withhold from others in need.

When we sin against neighbor, condone injustice, and quarrel with one another,

We sin against you, O God.

Forgive us, we pray, for we are broken in spirit.

Forgive us, we pray, for we are broken in spirit.

Do not see us for our faults, and do not go away from us.

Keep us always in your presence so that we may be restored.

Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION “Bear Your Light Upon Me, Lord” Insert

1st SCRIPTURE Genesis 2:4-7

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed the human from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the human became a living being.

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Lenten Meditation”
Chancel Choir, director Robin Koozer

Jay Althouse

2nd SCRIPTURE

John 9:1-7

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who was blind from birth. Jesus’ disciples asked, “Rabbi, who sinned so that he was born blind, this man or his parents?”

Jesus answered, “Neither he nor his parents. This happened so that God’s mighty works might be displayed in him. While it’s daytime, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” After he said this, he spat on the ground, made mud with the dust of the earth and the saliva, and smeared the mud on the man’s eyes. Jesus said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (this word means sent). So the man went away and washed. When he returned, he could see.

MEDITATION

Reflections on Dust

Greg Allen-Pickett

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

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

In life and in death, I belong to God.

(The congregation is invited to come forward and have ashes imposed on their forehead or hand. At the imposition of ashes, the one imposing ashes says the first words, and the congregant may respond with the words printed in bold.)

HYMN

“Sign us with Ashes”

433

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Damen Jensen-Heitmann

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, as we turn our attention to the Season of Lent, we pray that you will guide us in the days ahead. As we journey with Jesus Christ, give us an abiding sense of your presence, an unguarded sense of ourselves, and an awareness of the needs of this world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, as we are marked with the ashes of earth, we bring before you the frailty of our very human lives: the fragility of our health, the tenuousness of our accomplishments and plans, the changing nature of even our closest relationships. Grant us patience in suffering and healing from our ills. Give us, in equal measure, humility and hope in our pursuits. Bind us in covenantal love that is both constant yet able to change according to the needs and circumstances before us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Just God, you call us to loosen the bonds of injustice, to care for those in need, to lift the burdens that bind others. We ask you to increase our courage and our will to work for the freedom and peace you envision and demand. We pray for an end to warfare and conflict, accepting our calling to be peacemakers. We pray for an end to hunger and homelessness, knowing we are called to share our bread and to open our doors. We pray for an end to false righteousness, evil speech, and shallow piety in our lives, in the church, in our national life, and among all the nations.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Forever God, we pray that your kingdom will come in fullness, that what is perishable will be raised imperishable, and that death itself will be swallowed up in victory.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayers. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN

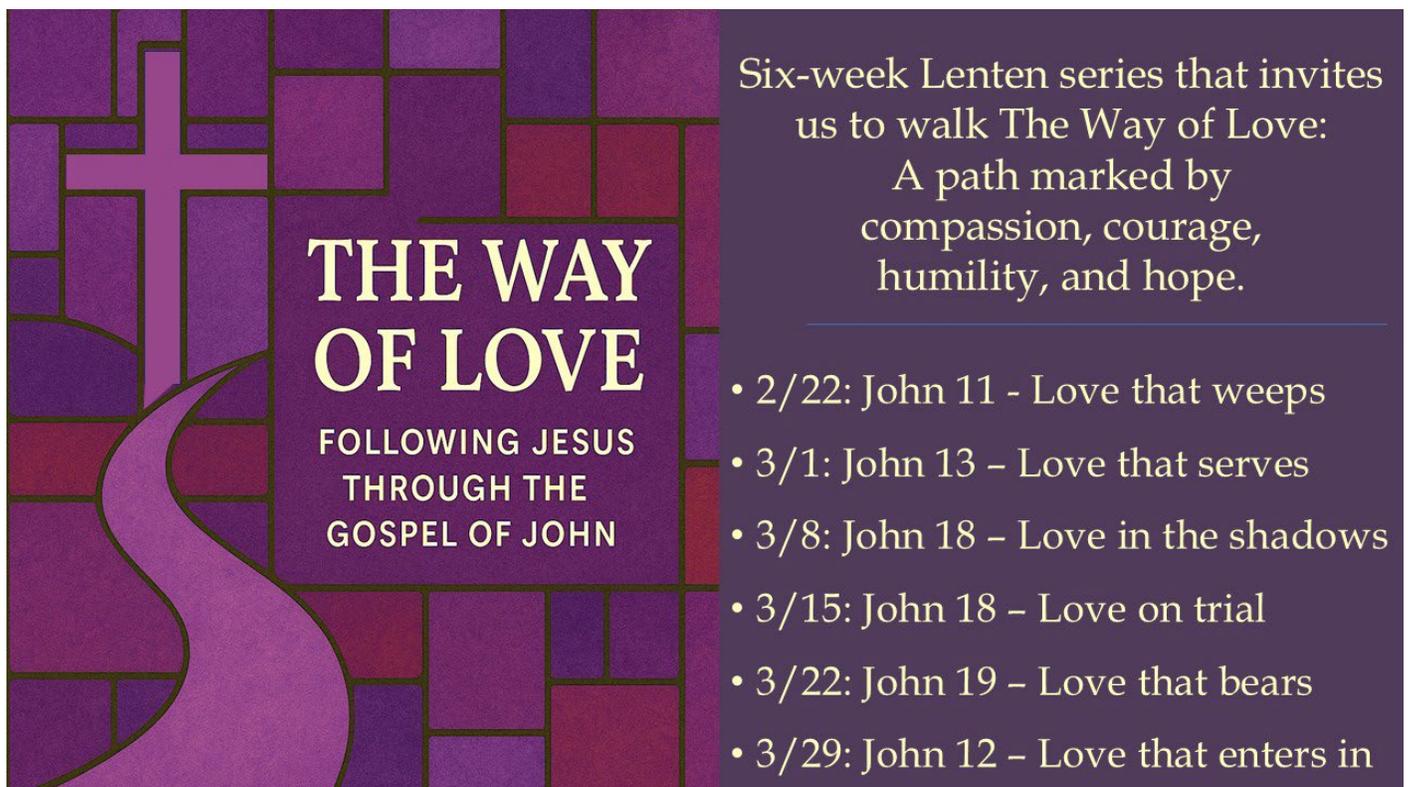
“The Lord Is Your Home”
Hannah Jensen-Heitmann

insert

*BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

*Following the Benediction and Blessing,
You are invited to sit as long as you would like and to depart in silence*

Join us every Sunday during the Season of Lent as we reflect on the “The Way of Love”



Six-week Lenten series that invites us to walk The Way of Love: A path marked by compassion, courage, humility, and hope.

- 2/22: John 11 - Love that weeps
- 3/1: John 13 - Love that serves
- 3/8: John 18 - Love in the shadows
- 3/15: John 18 - Love on trial
- 3/22: John 19 - Love that bears
- 3/29: John 12 - Love that enters in

CHORAL ANTHEM
"Lenten Meditation"
Jay Althouse

Jesus Christ, my Savior lived for me, and died, source of my salvation, yet was crucified. Peace that knows no measure: This by faith I see. Love that knows no ending; Jesus died for me.

Lord O Lord, we renew our commitment these forty nights and days. And Lord, O Lord, by your grace help us change our sinful ways.

Hear me now, Lord Jesus: I will never stray. I will never wander. Hear me as I pray: Free me now from darkness. Cleanse me now from sin. Pardon my transgressions. Make me pure within.

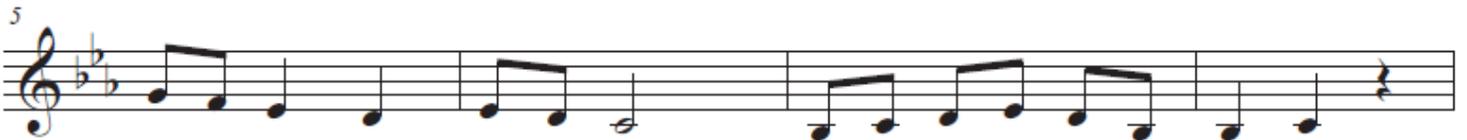
Lord O Lord, we renew our commitment these forty nights and days. And Lord, O Lord, by your grace help us change our sinful ways. Amen.

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

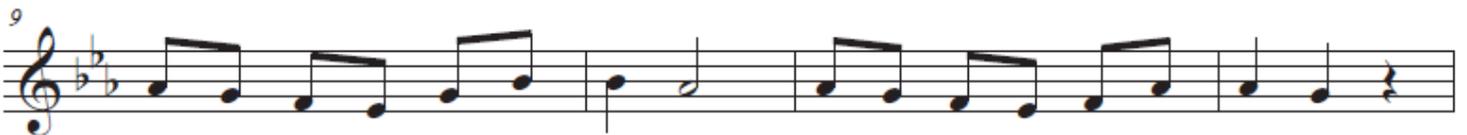
Bear Your Light Upon Me, Lord



Bear your light u - pon me, Lord. Guide me through this time of sor - row



so that love and peace will pour from me for a new to - mor - row.



When the dark - ness of the val - ley ov - er sha - dows all that I see,



I pray you are e - ver with me, please bear your light u - pon me, Lord.

CLOSING HYMN

The Lord Is Your Home



Be - lieve in the life, be - lieve in the love, be - lieve in the



hope the Lord shares with us. Go, all who were wear-y. Go, with friends or a-



lone. Go, griev-ing or joy - ful now. The Lord is your home. Be - lieve in the



life, be - lieve in the love, be - lieve in the hope the Lord shares with us.