

WELCOME Rev. Ashley Birk

OPENING RESPONSE God has told us what it good;
(bold in unison) **God has told us what is right.**
Iona Worship Book 17 We are to live justly:
p. 133 **We are to live justly.**
We are to love kindly:
We are to love kindly.
We are to walk humbly:
We are to walk with God.

HYMN 433 *Sign Us with Ashes*
vs. 3–6

PRAYER OF APPROACH You call us, God.
(bold in unison) You call us to walk in your way.
Iona Worship Book 17 You Show us in Jesus how we should live.
p. 133 You give us your Holy Spirit to keep us right.
And we are grateful.

Love and justice are what you require of us, God—
Love for you and love and justice for ourselves and our neighbours.
And we try.
And sometimes we fail,
But we try.
(a silence)

Thank you for these words of Jesus which summon us and give us life:
Don't be afraid. You are forgiven. I call you friends. Come and follow me. **Amen.**

PSALM 42 A: As a deer longs for streams of cool water,
(bold in unison) So my heart longs for you, O God.
Iona Worship Book 17 B: I thirst for you, the living God.
p. 217 When shall I know you are near me?
A: Tears have been my food, day and night, while tormenters ask, 'Where is your God?'
B: My heart breaks whenever I remember how I once went with others to God's house.
A: I would lead the joyful procession singing and shouting God's praise.
ALL: Why am I sunk in deep misery? Why am I lost and distressed?
I shall put my hope in God, in the One who is my deliverer.
A: My soul is troubled within me
Therefore I will remember you.
B: Deep calls to deep in confusion
And all your waters sweep over me.
A: Yet by day God's love assures me;
Come night, a song leaves my lips,
A prayer to the God of my life.
B: I ask God, 'Why have you forgotten me?'
Why should I walk like a mourner,
Being taunted, 'Where is your God?'
ALL: Why am I sunk in deep misery? Why am I lost and distressed?
I shall put my hope in God, in the One who is my deliverer.



FEBRUARY 18, 2026 ASH WEDNESDAY
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANTA FE

**AFFIRMATION
OF FAITH**
(bold in unison)
Iona Worship Book 17
p. 134

Let us affirm our faith:
**We believe in God
Who made the seas and the earth, the sun and the sky,
Who calls us to live responsibly.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ
Who became human,
Who healed the sick,
Who talked to children,
Who made friends with sinners.
He burned brightly and offended many.
His journey was on of life and death and resurrection.
His light continues to shine in the darkness.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit
Who inspired the scriptures,
And whose breath we breathe.**

**We believe that God calls us to be a community,
Committed to one another,
Offering a welcome to everyone,
Old and young, rich and poor,
Strong and weak.**

**We believe that God calls us to be peacemakers,
Workers for justice,
Brothers and sisters,
A light for our world. Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

ANTHEM *A Lenten Prayer* by Gerald Near

COMMUNION

HYMN 422 *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

SENDING
(bold in unison)
Iona Worship Book 17
p. 136

God has told us what is good;
God has told us what is right.
Do you believe that the Gospel commands us to seek peace founded on justice?
We do.
Then, will you live justly?
We will live justly.
Will you live kindly?
We will live kindly.
Will you walk with God?
We will walk with God.

BLESSING
(bold in unison)
Iona Worship Book 17
p. 136

The blessing of God
Sure, strong and kindly
Be around us
And within us
Now . . . And all the night and days
Of our journey home. **Amen.**