

# Ash Wednesday

**FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

**7:00 PM**



# FIRE

Genesis 3:17-19, 23-24



SCRIPTURE READING



GREETING



+CALL TO THE WILDERNESS

As Jesus entered into the wilderness, away from the shining temples of the empire, he was tempted to claim authority and glory.

**Instead, he flipped tables and foretold the destruction of the temple, with no stone left on stone, burned to the ground.**

As he looked down upon death and destruction, Christ was tempted with all the protection of heaven, safe and secure from harm.

**Instead, he gave up his safety, endured the whip and the crown and the cross, and he let go of his earthly spirit like smoke released to the sky.**

As he hungered, Jesus was tempted with bread, satisfaction and fulfillment, command over his surroundings, and comfort in his incarnation.

**Instead, he chose to sit in the dust of the desert, to accept the fullness of humanity, the hunger and helplessness of our existence, waiting to see what would come from the ash.**



+OPENING HYMN

*Canticle of the Turning*

p. 4-5



BURNING OF THE PALMS



PRAYER OVER THE PALMS

**Lord of the dancing flame, we thank you for the beauty of the palms and the life you have given to them. From the dirt, you raised a seed into a great tree, producing all manner of fruit and providing shade from the desert heat. As these branches fell, they fell onto the road to mark the way of the Lord with joyful hosannas. Now, in humble gratitude for the fullness of life, we return these palms to the dirt, so that new life might grow once more. As these palms burn, we consider all that has led us here and we let it burn away. As the palms grow, so may we nurture the seeds, the spaces for new life. As the palms dissolve to ash, may we find beauty and hope in the destruction. Let the systems of oppression crumble and the thrones of empires topple so that no stone may be left on stone. As the inferno blazes, may the razed ground provide for us a new beginning, space for something beautiful to once again rise from the ashes. Amen.**



MUSICAL WITNESS

*Apocalypse*

Sophia Hiatt

# SMOKE



INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE



SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 58:1-10



ANTHEM

*His Eye Is on the Sparrow*

Arr. M. Hayes



TIME OF CONFESSION



### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Spirit of the rising smoke, we confess that we have lost sight of you in the distraction of our religion. Like the pharisees that challenged Jesus, we have valued ritual over action, standing in the way of progress in support of rules and tradition. We have meditated so fervently on our own salvation that our eyes have remained shut to the world around us. We have tended to our altar of suffering and practice with such devotion that it is shiny and clean and yet a layer of dust coats the path leading outside. Our time kneeling at your cross has exceeded our time walking your path. In contemplating death, we have forgotten what it means to be alive. We fear the fullness of action that your prophets demand of us, using our prayers and our fasting to distract us from the kingdom of justice we were tasked to build. May we have the courage to forego our self-preservation to protect your people, to accept our mortality so we can focus on the fullness of life. Lord, take our confession, not just the prayers we offer but the words that are stuck in our throats, the restricting bands that are wrapped around our hearts and lungs, the burdens that we don't even know we carry until we are crushed under their weight. Please, take it so we no longer hold it alone. All these distractions and fears, we relinquish unto you, O God. We release it all so that we may be free to live your mission. Amen.**



### LENTEN OFFERING

Give by Text: (630) 528-0155  
Online: [wesleynaperville.org/giving](http://wesleynaperville.org/giving)  
The offering basket is also available at the front of the sanctuary.



### LENTEN HYMN

*Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes*

TFWS 2138

## ASH



### THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES



### PRAYER OVER THE ASHES

**Creator of the ash from which all things come, grant that these ashes may be a sign of our mortality, a chance to honor all life that was, and a duty to the fullness of all life can be. May we be reminded of our unity with all things, with all borders and divisions burned away and all that keeps us from you released from our hearts. All of humanity is our responsibility and our community. Bind together our hearts and our lives that we may feel the weight of their life and death as our own. As the ash falls from the sky, may we rise with the conviction of the prophets, tasked to break the chains of oppression, to balance the scales of justice, to bring hope to the marginalized, and to build a world worthy of the life you brought forth from the dust. Amen.**



### SHARING OF THE ASHES

*From the Ashes*

Martina McBride



### SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 15: 45-49



### +CLOSING HYMN

*Beautiful Things*

p. 6-7



### +PARDON AND DISMISSAL

As you bear the image of dust,

**May you bear the image of heaven.**



### POSTLUDE

*This Little Light of Mine*

UMH 585

## Canticle of the Turning



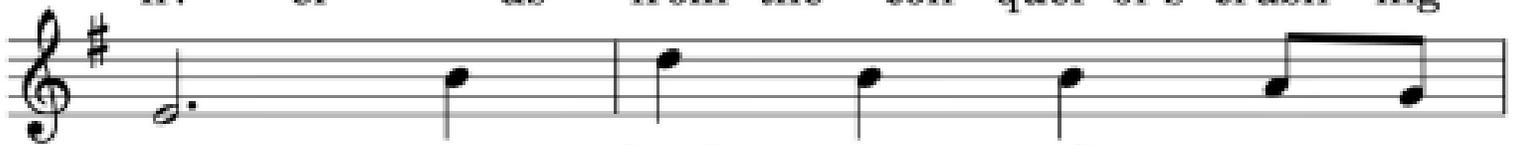
1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



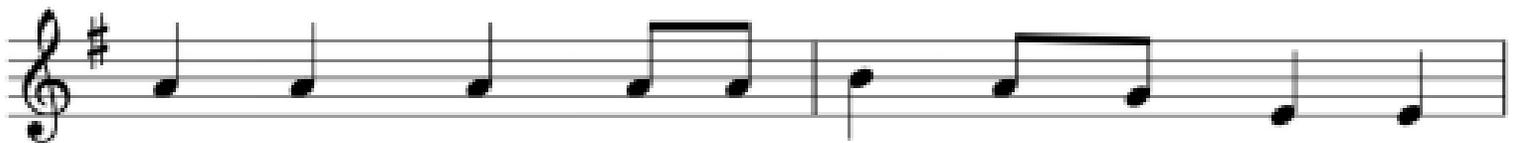
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who  
depths of the past to the end of the age to  
jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing



wait. You fixed your sight on your  
be. Your ver - y name puts the  
throne. The hun - gry poor shall  
grasp. This sav - ing word that our



ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you did not  
proud to shame, and to those who would for you  
weep no more, for the food they can nev - er  
fore - bears heard is the prom - ise which holds us

spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery  
 bound, till the spear and rod can be

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

*Refrain*

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

# BEAUTIFUL THINGS

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Admin. at CAPITOLCMGPUBLISHING.COM

Words and Music by MICHAEL GUNGOR  
and LISA GUNGOR

Moderately

G Gsus2(#4) D G Gsus2(#4)

All this pain; \_\_\_ I won - der if I'll ev - er find my way. \_\_\_  
All this earth; \_\_\_ could all that is lost ev - er be found? \_\_\_  
All a - round, \_\_\_ hope is spring - ing up from this old ground. \_\_\_

D G Gsus2(#4) Bm A

\_\_\_ I won - der if my life could real - ly change \_\_\_ at \_\_\_ all.  
\_\_\_ Could a gar - den come up from this ground \_\_\_ at \_\_\_ all?  
\_\_\_ Out of cha - os, life is be - ing found \_\_\_ in \_\_\_ You.

G Gsus2(#4) D Dmaj7

You make beau - ti - ful things, \_\_\_ You make \_\_\_ beau - ti -

G/D D

ful things out of the dust. \_\_\_ You make beau - ti - ful things, \_\_\_

Dmaj7 G/D To Coda ⊕ D

\_\_\_ You make \_\_\_ beau - ti - ful things out of us. \_\_\_

G Gsus2(#4) D D.C. al Coda (no repeat) CODA ⊕ D

\_\_\_ You make \_\_\_ me

Dmaj7 G/D D

new, You \_\_\_ are mak - ing \_\_\_ me new. \_\_\_ You make \_\_\_ me

Dmaj7 G/D D

new, You \_\_\_ are mak - ing \_\_\_ me new. \_\_\_ (Mak - ing me new.)

D Dmaj7 G/D

You make beau-ti-ful things, \_ You make\_ beau-ti-ful things out of the dust. \_

You make \_ me new, You \_ are mak-ing \_ me new. \_

D Gmaj7 A/G

— You make beau-ti-ful things, \_ You make\_ beau-ti-

(Mak-ing me new.) You make \_ me new, You \_ are

G (opt. 8vb to end) D

ful things out of us. \_\_\_ Oh, You make beau-ti-ful things, \_

mak-ing \_ me new. \_\_\_ (Mak-ing me new.) You make \_ me

Dmaj7 G/D D

— You make\_ beau-ti-ful things out of the dust. \_

new, You \_ are mak-ing \_ me new. \_\_\_ (Mak-ing me new.)

G A/G G Gmaj7

D F#m G D

You make beau-ti-ful things, \_ You make\_ beau-ti-ful things out of us. \_\_\_



### **Worship Leaders:**

Rev. Max Blalock, *Chaplain* of North Central College

Rev. Eunbae Doh, *Lead Pastor* of Wesley United Methodist Church

Rev. Kari Nicewander, *Pastor* of First Congregational United Church of Christ

Rev. Jacob Tipantasig-Wolverton, *Lead Pastor* of Community United Methodist Church

Rev. Alexander Dungan, *Pastor of Family and Justice* of Wesley United Methodist Church

Rev. Sharon Rice, *Deacon of Discipleship* of Community United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Lynn Pries, *President* of the Naperville Interfaith Leaders Association

Nicole Melody, *Director of Music* for Wesley United Methodist Church

Svetlana Mars, *Accompanist* for Wesley United Methodist Church

Sophia Hiatt, *Alumna* of North Central College, Class of 2024

Shiza Alendry, from Hope United Methodist Church

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