

Imposition of ashes

Worshipers are invited to come forward to receive the ashes and then return to their seat.

Responsive Prayer

Dear God, who calls us to journey through the wilderness, we step forward with courage, walking the way of Christ. Grant us humility and bravery like Abraham, honesty like the Samaritan woman, and steadfastness like Jesus in the face of temptation. As we turn toward you in personal repentance, turn our hearts also toward the healing of the injustices and inequalities we have allowed. Give us compassion for those who mourn and suffer and teach us to be healers even as we are healed. And when our forty days of reflection and repentance bring us to the Easter garden, let us know the deep joy of Resurrection morning. Amen.

***Closing Hymn #81 “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”**

Charge

Benediction

Worshipers will leave in silence.

First Presbyterian Church of Johnstown, NY – YouTube link:



Website Address: www.johnstownpresbyterian.org



February 18, 2026

7pm

Welcome to worship at the First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown. Whether you are here in the sanctuary or joining us online, we are glad you are with us. Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here, and we give thanks for the gift of worshiping together today!

Pastor Ken

Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

People: and put a new and right spirit within me.

Leader: Do not cast me away from your presence,

People: and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

Leader: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

People: and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Leader: O Lord, open my lips.

People: and my mouth will declare your praise.

Amen

***Opening Hymn #77 “Forty Days and Forty Nights”**

Litany of Penitence

Leader: Holy God, we confess to you and to one another that we have sinned, by our own fault, in our thoughts, our words, and our actions.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We have not loved you or our neighbors with our whole hearts.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We have failed to do justice and to love mercy and to live humbly.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We have left many things undone that would bring justice and equality to the human community.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We have despoiled the natural world that you created in beauty and rich diversity.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We continually store up possessions as earthly treasure and neglect the true treasure that you offer.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: With honesty, we confess our pride, our envy of others, our anger, our self-indulgence, our contempt for those who differ from us.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: So, we begin a journey through the wilderness of Lent with the marks of our human brokenness upon us. Accompany us on the way; forgive us as we stumble; encourage us as we learn the way of discipleship; bring us safely to the cross and the empty tomb. Restore us to wholeness and embrace us in your steadfast love.

People: Turn to us in your mercy, O God, and redeem us. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 2:7 and 3:19 (Pew Bible Pages 2&3)

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2 (Pew Bible Page 181)

Pastor Ken Killian

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Ken Killian

Reflection

“Marked for the Journey”

Invitation to the observance of a holy Lent

Leader: We begin the journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. The ashes placed on our foreheads convey the uncertainty and frailty of our lives. May they remind us to spend the days of Lent in prayer and fasting, in examination of our lives, in doing works of love and justice, and in grounding ourselves in the words of Scripture.