

# Seeking | Honest Questions for Deeper Faith

**Prelude** *Poor Wayfaring Stranger*

arr. D. Miller

## Greeting & Welcome

### +Call to Worship

We gather together at the edge of a new season.

**We stand together on the cusp of something new.**

Will we wade into self-reflection?

**Will we invite honesty to dance?**

Will we listen for God's invitation?

**Will we seek deeper faith?**

What kind of fast do we choose?

**What kind of faith will we build?**

We gather together at the edge of a new season.

**Listen, God is speaking.**

**+Hymn** *Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes*

TFWS #2138

### Unison Prayer

God,

**We want to hear your voice. Shout loudly; don't hold back.**

**Move in our spirits the way you moved over the waters of creation.**

**We are beginning a new season today, God, and we don't want to begin anything without you. So speak to us today—through silence, through**

**scripture, through song. Speak to us as you spoke to the Israelites so many moons ago. Speak to us like a gentle breeze or a loud trumpet.**

**We don't care how, we just long to hear your voice. So don't hold back.**

**We are here. We are listening.**

**Amen.**

**Scripture Reading** *Isaiah 58:1-12*

**Call to Prayer** *O Lord Hear My Prayer*

TFWS #2200 2x

### Silent Prayer of Confession

### Words of Forgiveness

**Scripture Reading** *Genesis 2:4-7*

**Meditation** *Do you ever think about dying?*

**+Hymn** *Change My Heart, O God*

TFWS #2152

**Spiritual Practice** *Play-Doh Prayer*

### Blessing of the Ashes

**Holy and Loving God,**

**bless these ashes, a sign of our journey—  
from dust to dust, from grace to grace.**

**In this mark, remind us:**

**We are yours, wholly and always.**

**We are fragile, fleeting, yet filled with your Spirit.**

**We are broken, yet being made new.**

**May these ashes lead us deeper into love,**

**wider into justice, and ever closer to you.**

**Amen.**

**Special Music** *Sweet Hour of Prayer*

Walford & Bradbury

arr. Craig Johnston

### Imposition of the Ashes

*Receive the sign of the cross on your forehead with these words.*

*"From blessed dust you have come and to blessed dust you shall return."*

**+Hymn** *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me*

UMH #521

### +Blessing

**Postlude** *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

*African-American Spiritual* arr. John Carter

—CCLI License No. 1093845 —OneLicense #A-708801

Donna Dempewolf, Pastor

David Miller, Piano

## LENTEN CALENDAR

Sunday, March 29, 9:30 am - PALM/PASSION SUNDAY  
Wednesday, April 1, 6:30 pm - HOLY WEDNESDAY  
Friday, April 3, 6:30 pm - GOOD FRIDAY  
Saturday, April 4, 1:00 pm - COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT  
Sunday, April 5, 9:30 am - EASTER SUNDAY  
Sunday, April 5, following worship, EASTER BRUNCH  
(proceeds benefit NUMC Youth Programs)

**No Super Wednesday March 25th (Spring break)**  
**The church office will be closed Easter Monday, April 6th**



Northfield United Methodist Church  
1401 S. Maple St., Northfield, MN 55057  
507-645-5689  
[www.northfieldumc.org](http://www.northfieldumc.org)

**Worship.**

**Devotion.**



**Compassion.**

**Justice.**

# Ash Wednesday



# seeking: honest questions for deeper faith

**February 18, 2026**

**6:30 pm**