

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Third and Jackson Streets

Decatur, Indiana

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(*) All who are able, please stand

Ash Wednesday Service

Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

February 18, 2026

Prelude: "Amazing Grace" Shelly Nussbaum

*Call to Praise: Jan Miller, Liturgist

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free and break
every yoke?

**Is it not sharing our bread with the hungry and bringing the
homeless poor into our house when we see the naked, to cover
them and not hide ourselves from our own kin?**

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall
spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of God
shall be your rear guard.

Then we shall call, and HE will answer.

We shall cry for help, and HE will say, "Here I am."

*The Invocation: (Unison) Liturgist

**Divine Maker, the One who crafted bodies both earthly
and celestial, we attune to your presence. May the words
spoken, the songs sung, and the prayers offered in this sacred
space, resonate with us and through us. May what we
experience here cause us to break forth with a renewed sense
of hope and joy. Amen.**

*The Hymn Of Praise: "I Am Thine, Lord" No. 358

*Prayer for Transformation and New Life: (Unison)

Rev. Kahler

Lifter of Our Heads, help us to turn away from hollow thoughts and empty rituals. Let nothing false be found in us. Sustain us in our desire to worship you in spirit and in truth. Help us to see the sacred all around us and in us and to treat each other like the Divine image bearers we are. Amen.

Words of Grace: (Inspired by Isaiah 58:11 NRSVUE)

*The Hymn of Praise: “Let Us Break Bread Together ”

No. 323

Holy Communion

Communion and Ritual of Breath and Ashes:

Rev. Kahler

We give thanks for the closeness we have in you and with you O God.

You are always as close as our next breath.

We marvel at how intentional you were in our design.

You crafted us from stars and like stars, bid us to shine

We broke forth with you, shining in the beginning.

And we will return to you luminously, in the end.

Beloved, we gather in this solemn moment, to pause and to reflect.

We reflect on the bread that was broken and the cup that was shared. We remember.

Words of Institution: (I Corinthians 11:23-26 NRSVUE)

The Prayer of our Savior:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing of Bread and Cup:

