

through prayer that listens,  
through fasting that makes room,  
through works of love that cost us something,  
and through attention to the Word of God  
made flesh among the poor, the excluded, and the suffering.

So now, let us bow before God, our Creator, Refiner, and  
Redeemer, and confess – not to be shamed, but to be freed.

***WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD***

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES, OFFERINGS AND COMMITMENTS

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

\*RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING #607

*Trinitarian Doxology*

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Anthony Saturno

CONFESSION OF SIN

**Our Lord,**

**You have called us to love and value ourselves,  
and to love and value all those around us.**

**Yet we have not valued some voices, because they are different.**

**Yet You are everyone's Creator,**

**and everyone is made in Your image,**

**so that everyone's value is beyond limits.**

**Teach us to see others, as you see others,**

**and so to become the community of God.**

**We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen** *(silent prayer)*

\*HYMN #726 (v. 1,2,4,5)

*Will you Come and Follow Me*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE #604

*Lamb of God*

***SENDING***

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

**Remember that you are dust,**

**And to dust you shall return ---**

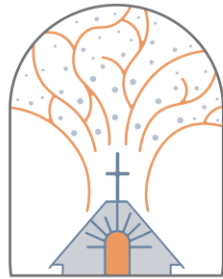
**But from this dust, God raises love**

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (OUTSIDE)



New Hanover Presbyterian Church  
is a congregation of  
the Presbyterian Church (USA) and  
the Presbytery of the James.  
We welcome you!





# New Hanover Presbyterian Church

**Our Vision:** Make Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection relevant today

**Our Mission:** As a welcoming community of believers in Jesus Christ, we will unite our faith and works to share God's love

**Our Values:** Based on our understanding of the Bible, New Hanover Presbyterian Church believes that love, acceptance, inclusion, redemption, reconciliation, mercy and equity are values Jesus Christ taught and demonstrated.

The Lord's Day, February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday

❖ = Please stand in body or in spirit · Unison responses are in **bold print**  
Greet each other in the name of Jesus and use this prayer to prepare for worship.

*Holiest of all, you call us to witness your divine splendor; you touch our lips, and with our voices we praise you. You are uplifted, yet you stoop to hear us, cleansing our guilt and forgiving our sin. We are here in response to your calling; Guide us in our worship we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

## **GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Saturno

*Welcome Visitors!*

PRELUDE

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

The Rev. Anthony Saturno

❖CALL TO WORSHIP

Return to the One who forms us from dust and breath.

**We return with what weighs us down.**

Return not with fear, but with truth.

**We return to be made new.**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

❖HYMN #578 (v. 1,2 & 1 in Greek)

*Oh Lord, Have Mercy*

## **THE WORD**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

LESSON FROM THE PSALTER

Psalm 139:23-24

MEDITATION

Burn it Away

LETTING IT BURN

LESSON FROM THE GOSPELS

Mark 8:34-36

MEDITATION

Give it Away

❖HYMN #697 (v. 1,2,4)

*Take my Life*

INVITATION TO A HOLY LENT

Rev's Robert Johnson & Anthony Saturno

**As we stand in the shadow of the cross,  
we remember the love that refuses to turn away ---  
the love revealed in Jesus Christ,  
who enters the suffering of the world  
and calls us to follow.**

**Lent is not a season of escape,  
but a journey of truth.**

**A time to release what binds us,  
to let die what keeps us from love,  
and to be reshaped for the life of God's reign.**

**Tonight, we begin this holy season  
by naming our need ---  
for repentance, for mercy,  
and for the refining grace  
proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**We begin with the sign of ashes.  
This ancient mark tells the truth about us:  
that our lives are fragile, our certainties incomplete,  
and our self-protection strong.  
Yet even now, God is not finished with us.**

**In the name of Christ,  
we invite you to observe a holy Lent ---  
not only by turning inward,  
but by turning toward the wounded world:  
through honest self-examination and repentance,**