



UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

God has called University Baptist Church to minister to the University Community and to the residents of the Greater Charlottesville-Albemarle Community, serving as agents of Christ's love and justice for those in need and offering a vital family of faith.

February 18, 2026
Ash Wednesday

GATHERING

Prelude *How long will you hide your face from me, O Lord? (Ps. 13)* Alex Rowley

Lighting the Candles
We light these candles to welcome the Spirit, for they represent how Jesus is the Light of the world which guides us through life.

Opening the Bible
We open the Bible to remind us that God speaks to us through the Holy Word.

Invocation and Greeting Rev. Megan Sharp

*Call to Worship Rev. Sharp

We come from many families to worship God as one family of God.

Remembering our covenant, we come in faithfulness.

We come to mark the beginning of the season of Lent.

We come to remember through ashes and prayer.

Come then, let us renew ourselves as we worship together.

Let us worship God!

*Hymn 450 *Be Thou My Vision* SLANE

HEARING

Gospel Lesson Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Linda Boston
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

Anthem *Create in Me, O God* Johannes Brahms

Create in me, O God, a pure heart, and grant anew, grant a right spirit within me.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news: God does not despise a broken and contrite heart.
In Jesus Christ, we are met not with condemnation, but with mercy.

**The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

As far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our transgressions from us.

In Christ, we are forgiven and made new.

From dust we were formed. In Christ’s mercy we are forgiven.

By the Spirit’s power we are restored and made new. Walk in this mercy. Live in this grace.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn 437

You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!

WAYFARING STRANGER

Epistle Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

Peter Ohlms

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Homily

The Penitent Ambassador

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Meditation

Barbara Moore

RESPONDING

Imposition of Ashes

Dr. Tennant

Hymn 166

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN

Benediction

Dr. Tennant

Guide us waking, O Lord, **and guard us sleeping;**
that awake we may watch with Christ, **and asleep rest in his peace.**
May Almighty God bless, preserve, and keep us, **this night and forevermore. Amen.**

Depart in silence

Thank you for coming to worship this evening. We are blessed by your presence, and we trust that this service helped to deepen your spiritual life. We look forward to meeting you personally at the close of the service.

