

**WELCOME TO  
BRICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Ash Wednesday Service**

**February 18, 2026**



**111 Drum Point Road,  
Brick, NJ 08723  
732-477-0676**



# ORDER FOR WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

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\* Please stand as you are able

Congregational responses are in **bold**

## GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOME

Ray Nalewicki

PRELUDE

*"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"*

arr. Robert Thygerson

Keyboardist, Cindy Dwyer

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ray Nalewicki

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

**God's love endures forever.**

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**God's love endures forever.**

God abides with us and teaches us to die to self and to live repentant lives.

**God's love endures forever. We return, we remember, and we will listen well.**

**Let us worship God.**

\*HYMN

*"Just As I Am"*

#442 vs. 1,2,3

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, we pause for a moment, to pay attention to the gift of breath, which is as ancient as we are old, as new as this morning's dawn.

*(Pause)*

By your Spirit, your Word is made new. In the hearing of Scripture, ancient and new, may we be inclined to speak the truth in loving kindness, obey the law of your love, and to keep your peace that passes all understanding.

**Amen.**

1<sup>ST</sup> SCRIPTURE READING                      Joel 2:12-17                      Ray Nalewicki  
p. 787

GOSPEL    Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18                      p. 839  
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

\* HYMN    *"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"*                      #802 vs. 1,2,3,4

READING FROM THE PROPHETS    Isaiah 58:6-12                      p. 638  
The Word of the Lord.                      Rev. Eileen Lindner  
**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON    *"There's Nothing Fast About Fasting"*

ANTHEM    *"Kyrie Eleison (A Lenten Prayer)"*                      by Brian Childers

“                      **INVITATION TO THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION                      Rev. Eileen

Before Christ, let us confess our sin, how it is with our life, and our lives together:  
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, you are one who guards and guides  
our way.

**Have mercy upon us.**

To follow you is to trust you in paradox; that from a broken, aching heart,  
**rises a healing and hopeful heart.**

that out of weakness and vulnerability,  
**grows the quickening of Christ's Love.**

that in darkness and despair,  
**the radiance of Christ's Light shines.**

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, we fail to follow you; we turn away.  
**Forgive us, we pray.**

As certain as the morning sun rises, you are here, Lord.

This day. This evening.

**There was evening, then morning, the first day. And it was good. Very good.**

This day. This evening. Ashes to Ashes. Dust to Dust.

**We are grounded in the Source of All Being. This day. This evening.**

For needing evidence for every holy matter, and wanting none for our  
indifference to all injustice,

**Forgive and accept our repentance.**

For failure to speak and praise your name alone and that we do not make a  
defense for the hope that is within us,

**Forgive and accept our repentance.**

Restore us, O God.

**Favorably hear us, for your mercy and forgiveness are great.**

**Amen.**

RESPONSE

*"More Love to Thee"*

#828 vs. 1

**More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee!**

**Hear thou the prayer I make on bended knee.**

**This is my earnest plea: more love, O Christ, to thee;  
more love to thee, more love to thee!**

### IMPOSITION OF ASHES

PRAYER OVER ASHES

From dust we came, to dust we shall return; and even yet, we sing "Alleluia" at the grave because death is not the end, only a sign of an impending resurrection. May these ashes tonight be for us a sign of our mortality, a desire for repentance, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*At this time, we invite you forward, as the ushers direct,  
to be marked with the sign of ashes.*

*After all have been imposed with the sign of the ashes,  
we will complete the liturgy of imposition of the ashes.*

REFLECTION

*"Touch Me with Ashes"*

by Stacey Nordmeyer

Into your loving and merciful ways, Source of Being,  
**we commend our lives.**

Accomplish in us, Holy One, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, the work of your saving grace.

**By the passion of our Savior, Jesus Christ, bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*"Lord of All Hopefulness"*

#683 vs. 1,2,4

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*(unison)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL CHARGE

*(unison)*

**As we leave this place marked with a sign of the cross, might we remember that our call as disciples in this season is to live a repentant life and to seek the good for the whole of creation.**

**Life is short and we do not have long to make the way with those whom we love. Be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. And may the love of One God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Mother of us all, be with us, now and forever. Amen and Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Eileen Lindner

POSTLUDE

*"Penitence"*

by Terry Osman

Keyboardist, Cindy Dwyer

*A free will offering box is located in the rear of the sanctuary.*



**Brick Presbyterian Church**  
**111 Drum Point Road, Brick, NJ 08723 \* 732-477-0676**

Rev. Jack Cherry, *Moderator of the Session*; Michael Kraynick, *Clerk Pro-tem*  
Sabrina Nagy, *Moderator of Deacons*; Joan Horan, *Vice Moderator*  
Tracey Podolsky, *Secretary*

**Session**

***Class of 2027***

*Brian Aldrich, Michael Auriemma, Missy Brino, Mark Ellis*

***Class of 2028***

*Sandra Alho, Diane Lehnnes, Lynda Pullis, Christy Tompkins*

***Class of 2029***

*Bob Auriemma, Jr., Katie Candeloro, Chuck Cumella, Maddie Latshaw*

**Board of Deacons**

***Class of 2027***

*Kevin Nagy, Sabrina Nagy, Tracey Podolsky, Wendy Schweis*

***Class of 2028***

*Elorm Banini, Lance Erikson, Elaine Salto, Sofia Thalheimer*

***Class of 2029***

*Sue Britton, Penny Chandler, Susan Gargano, Joan Horan*

**Staff**

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*Cindy Dwyer, Pianist*

*Lauren Dyke, Christian Education Lead*

*Karen Ellis, Financial Secretary*

*Mike Kraynick, Treasurer*

*Patricia Loboda, Administrative Assistant*

*Bonnie Luton, Handbell Choir Director*

*Edmond Murphy, Director of Vocal Music*

*Christy Tompkins, Praise Team Leader*

*Rev. Doug Chase, Pastor Emeritus*