



# Aiken's First Baptist Church

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

**Prelude**

O Welt Ich Muss Dich Lassen

Brahms

**Chiming of the Hour**

**Welcome and Explanation of Service**

John Carroll

**Call to Worship**

From Joel 2

Sarah Laurence

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near - a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!

**Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.**

Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

**Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God?**

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.

**Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, "Where is their God?"**

**Prayer of Invocation**

## Scripture Reading

Psalm 90:1-6

Christian Burton

## Prayers of Confession

Matt Waller

Lord God, you call us, and we close our ears; your beauty shines forth, and we shut our eyes; you stretch out your hands to bless us, and we pass you by. You delight in us, and we despair for ourselves.

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Lord God, we betray our love and our desire for you; we distort the joy and passion you kindle in our hearts; we choose to be less than who you made us. We neglect to give thanks, and we draw back from prayer; we fail to bear witness to the faith that is in us.

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Lord God, we cherish the things that divide us from others, and we are reluctant to make peace; we treat those who differ from us with prejudice and contempt; we are quick to judge and eager to assign blame. We waste and pollute your creation, and we lack concern for those who come after us.

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Lord God, we condemn other people's faults and justify our own. We resent correction, and we cling to the pride that hardens us against the truth. We gossip heedlessly. We exploit and wound other people. We are envious of the gifts you give to others and dissatisfied with the ones you give to us.

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Lord God, we refuse to share what you have given us so generously; we take lightly the wrongs and sufferings that are not our own; we keep silent when the truth you ask us to speak is hard; we are unwilling to overcome evil with good; we draw back from the cross.

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

As Jesus forgave the woman taken in adultery, and Peter, who betrayed him; so too does God bless and forgive you. You are much loved and your sins forgiven. Be at peace. And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

**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.**

<b>Hymn 168</b>	I Take the Cross of Jesus Christ	KINGSFOLD
<b>Scripture</b>	John 19:28-29	John Carroll
<b>Homily</b>	In Between the Dust	Holly Strother
<b>Imposition of Ashes</b>		
<b>Hymn 186</b>	When I Survey the Wondrous Cross	HAMBURG
<b>Benediction</b>		Holly Strother
<b>Postlude</b>	Sostenuto	Suraynski

# Aiken's First Baptist Ministry Team

**Rev. John Carroll**

Senior Pastor

**Kim Mitchell**

Preschool Director

**Rev. Sarah Laurence**

Minister of Youth and Pastoral Care

**Anna Derr**

Communications Specialist/Organist

**Christian Burton**

Director of Administration

**Gail Floyd**

Financial Secretary

**Zachary Derr**

Director of Music & Worship

**LeAnne Jolley**

Administrative Assistant

**Rev. Matt Waller**

Minister to Children and Families

**Emily Berry**

Youth Family Intern