

ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
“Bringing People to Christ and Christ to People”

February 18, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday

PRELUDE (*Please prepare your hearts and minds for worship.*)

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

This is a reflective service.

Please enter and exit in quiet reflection.

GREETING

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also, with you.**

Leader: Glorify the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: **God's mercy and love endures forever.**

***OPENING SONG**

Power of Your Love

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Behold, now is the acceptable time. Today is the day of God's salvation.

People: **We tremble in fear and anticipation at the nearness of a God so great and powerful.**

Leader: Return with all your heart, with weeping, fasting, and mourning.

People: **God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Leader: Be reconciled to God, through Christ Jesus, and receive a new and right spirit within.

People: **We will fast and pray as an inner discipline, preparing ourselves for faithful discipleship.**

HYMN OF PREPARATION

What Wondrous Love (vs 1-3)

UMH 292

NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6 As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. **2**For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. **3**We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. **4**Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; **5**in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; **6**in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; **7**in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; **8**through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; **9**known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; **10**sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

SERMON "Since Jesus Came into My Heart"

INVITATION TO LENTEN DISCIPLINES

- Fasting
- Prayer
- Bible Study
- Meditation
- Attending Worship
- Sharing in the Sacraments
- Doing good-in visiting the sick and the imprisoned

***PRAYER OF CONFESSSION (Psalm 51:1-10)**

People: Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your loving kindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my

transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, you only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Allow me to lead a life worthy of the calling of your son Jesus the Christ!

SILENT LIFTING OF NAMES/LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

It's Me, It's Me, O Lord (vs 1, 3) UMH 352

THANKSGIVING OVER ASHES/IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

***CLOSING HYMN**

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling UMH 384

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor:	Marked by a cross, cherished and forgiven
People:	We are traveling home.
Pastor:	Called to be holy, called to be happy
People:	We are traveling home.
Pastor:	Across deserts, over mountains
People:	We are traveling home.
Pastor:	God in our hearts, God in our lives
People:	We are traveling home. Dear Lord, see us safely home.

SENDING FORTH IN SILENT REFLECTION

Music Director: Mike Nelson

Videographer: Roger Vandegrift



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