

**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. <sup>21</sup>God 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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. <sup>4</sup>Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; <sup>5</sup>in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; <sup>6</sup>in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; <sup>7</sup>in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; <sup>8</sup>through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; <sup>9</sup>known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>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 CONFESSION (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



**St. John's United Methodist Church**  
**312 East Main Street P. O. Box 236**  
**Fruitland, Maryland 21826**  
**410-742-5592**  
**[stjohnsfruitland@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsfruitland@gmail.com)**  
**[www.stjohnsfruitland.org](http://www.stjohnsfruitland.org)**  
**Pastor Shannon Harris**  
**Cell: 410-777-0162**  
**E-mail: [pastorslharris@gmail.com](mailto:pastorslharris@gmail.com)**