



# Celebration of Worship

Open hearts  
Open minds  
Open doors

The people of the United Methodist Church

*+ Those who are able are invited to stand.*

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal FWS – The Faith We Sing

You are invited to respond with the **Boldface** responses.

## PRAYER FOR CENTERING

*God of Righteousness, you see the secret acts of our devotion and know the hidden motives of our hearts. Confirm in us a spirit of humble obedience, that without regard to earthly honor we may live as faithful children and receive the treasure of eternal life with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOSPITALITY

### PRELUDE

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT *The Acolytes*  
*Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world."*

+CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsively*

God said, "I will be your God."  
**God has promised. God remembers.**  
**God is faithful.**  
God said, "I will lead you in the paths of truth."  
**God has promised. God remembers.**  
**God is faithful.**  
God said, "I will forgive you."  
**God has promised. God remembers.**  
**God is faithful.**

God said, "My kingdom is near."  
**God has promised. God remembers.**  
**God is faithful.**

There are some journeys for which we long.  
**But the journey to the cross looks as though it will be difficult.**

The way of discipleship and faith is difficult. Put your hearts at ease. You are not traveling alone.  
**God has promised. God remembers.**  
**God is faithful.**

+INVOCATION *Responsively*

The season of Lent is here again and, as with so many times before, we find that we are not really ready for this journey of discipleship. So many things claim our lives and prevent us from being ready to take the steps in faith.

**As we look at our barrier of readiness, help us to remember that Christ is with us, every step of the way. We are not alone. Christ will help lift our hearts and spirits and direct our paths. Enable us, loving Savior, to take this journey of faith to new life with you. Amen.**

+ HYMN OF PRAISE *UMH 120*  
*Your Love, O God*

## The Church Family In Moments of Confession

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Hear these words from Joel, chapter 2. ...it's not too late--God's personal Message!--  
"Come back to me and really mean it! Come fasting and weeping, sorry for your sins!"  
Change your life, not just your clothes. Come back to God, your God. And here's why: God is kind and merciful. [God] takes a deep breath, puts up with lot, this most patient God, extravagant in love, always ready to cancel catastrophe. Who knows? ...[God] will do it now, ...turn around and show pity. ...when

all's said and done, there'll be blessings. Let us confess our sins and repent of all unrighteousness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Unison*

**Merciful God, we confess that we have been a rebellious people. We have broken your covenant, and we have tolerated injustice in our land. We have not shared our food with the hungry, we have not sheltered the homeless, and we have not aided the destitute. We quarrel and fight among ourselves, and we use religion to cover our deceit. We have become a mockery of our heritage; the world looks at us and asks, Where is their God?**

**Forgive us, O God. Subdue our rebellious hearts and restore in us the light and joy of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

### SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE *Responsively*

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. In the name of Jesus Christ, know that you are forgiven and rejoice.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

RESPONSE *UMH 472*

*Near to the Heart of God, v. 3*

**There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God; a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God. O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God, hold us who wait before thee near to the heart of God.**

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## The Church Family Shares

OFFERTORY INVITATION and PRAYER

OFFERTORY

+DOXOLOGY UMH 292

*What Wondrous Love Is This, v. 3*

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to God and  
to the Lamb who is the great I AM, while  
millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing;  
while millions join the theme I will sing.

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## The Church Listens for the Word

+THE WORD

CHORAL CALL TO CHILDRENS SERMON

*Sanctuary* FWS 2164

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and  
holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a  
living sanctuary for you.

WIGGLETIME

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER UMH 357

*Just as I Am, Without One Plea, v. 3*

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a  
conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears  
within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I  
come.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Pastor

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 trespasses, as we forgive those  
who trespass against us. And lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the

kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.  
Amen.

THE WORD IN MUSIC *Chancel Choir*

SERMON *Rev. M. Steven Meadows*

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## The Church Scatters to Share Good News

+HYMN OF DEDICATION UMH 420

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

+THE SERVICE OF LIGHT *The Acolytes*

*Jesus said, "You are the Light of the world."*

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

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...and the worship continues.



Attention United Methodist Women Executive  
Board: A board meeting will be held tomorrow,  
February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 12 Noon in room #21E (Board  
Room).



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*Where hearts, minds, and doors are open*

*22 February 2015*

*First Sunday in Lent*

Rev. M. Steven Meadows, pastor