



+ Those who are able are invited to stand.
UMH - United Methodist Hymnal FWS – The Faith We Sing
You are invited to respond with the Bold responses.

MOMENTS OF CENTERING

Loving Teacher, come and make your home in our hearts this day. Dwell within us all day long and save us from error or foolish ways. Teach us today to do no harm, to do good, and assist us so that we may stay in loving relationship with you and our neighbor. Help us today to be an answer to another's prayer so that we may be one of your signs of hope in the world you love. "You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11).

-Three Simple Rules, Rueben P. Job, p. 69.

Thanks be to God! Welcome to Worship!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Renee Warner*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOSPITALITY

PRELUDE *Dan Martin*

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

+CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *FWS 2202*
Come Away with Me, v. 5

Come away with me to a quiet place, to God's loving arms waiting to embrace all those who come in hope of grace. Come away with me, Come away.

+CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsively*
When we struggle to live as you teach us, and we fail to answer your call...

God, your steadfast loves surrounds us.

When the truth clogs up in our throat, and we fear what will happen if we speak and if we keep silent...

God, your steadfast love surrounds us.

When we open our hearts and let the truth of our sorrows, our sin, our joys, and our doubts flow freely...

God, your steadfast love surrounds us.

When our stubborn hearts encounter the grace that teaches and guides us into a life of trust and joyful obedience...

God, your steadfast love surrounds us today and every day. Thanks be to God!

+INVOCATION *Leader*

Gracious and eternal God, you call us into a new way of being and give us so many second chances in life. May your love wash over us, as we turn toward you from our sinful ways. Mold us as your people in new and powerful ways, that we may be true disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

+HYMN OF PRAISE *UMH 160*
Rejoice Ye Pure In Heart, vv. 1, 3, 4, 5

THE CHURCH IN MOMENTS OF CONFESSION

THE PSALTER *Psalms 32*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Unison*

God, we admit that we are prone to try to hide our sins; to keep our mouths shut and hope we are not

found out. But there is no place to hide from you. Our silence only makes us sick in body and spirit. But you delight in forgiving us and in covering our sin. You are glad when we confess our failings and our needs. Hide us, O God, from trouble; teach us the way we should go. Deliver us from our own stubbornness, and draw us near, we pray.

PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Once we were "dead" to all the things that God hoped for us; but in God's love we are again brought to life. Rejoice, dear ones, you are forgiven! **Amen.**

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.

RESPONSE *UMH 292*
What Wondrous Love is This, v. 2

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of life to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, to lay aside his crown for my soul.

THE CHURCH SHARES ITS BLESSINGS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

God is the giver of all good things, the one who fashioned each of us with unique gifts that together make the Body of Christ whole. In gratitude for all we have received, we offer our lives back to God — we share our time, our skills, our money and in so doing, we say "yes" to God's invitation to join in the Kingdom building work here on earth.

Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise. or online by using the church website: www.FirstChurchUM.com.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Unison

Gracious God, our refuge and restorer, we bring these gifts as a sign of our gratitude to you. As we observe this holy time of Lent, may our offerings reflect hearts that are turning back to you. Clear the clogs in our lives that separate us from you and one another and help us see the light of your promises even in our struggles. Bless these gifts and our lives so that we may share your steadfast love with the world.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Dan Martin

+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.

THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR THE WORD

THE WORD

CHORAL CALL TO CHILDRENS SERMON

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying FWS 2193

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

WIGGLETIME

...Then, time for Children's Church!

THE WORD IN MUSIC

Chancel Choir

SERMON

Rev. M. Steven Meadows

THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO SHARE GOOD NEWS

+HYMN OF DEDICATION

UMH 568

Christ for the World We Sing

+SERVICE OF LIGHT

The Acolytes

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

+BENEDICTION

Responsively

May God's grace go ahead of you, trail behind you, and encircle you each and every moment, that with every move you make you would know with absolute assurance that God's steadfast love will never leave you alone. Amen.

+POSTLUDE

Dan Martin

...and the worship continues.

