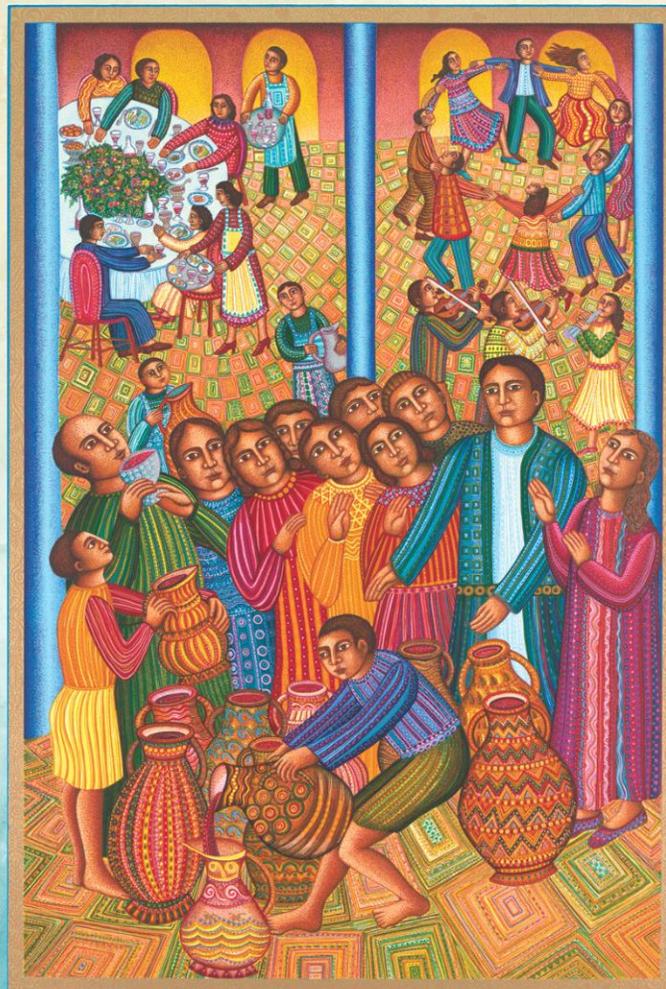




the good news is...

so good, it catches
us by surprise



Restrooms

If you need a restroom, exit the sanctuary through the door at the front to the right of the pulpit. The women's restroom is just off the foyer. The men's restroom is down the hallway from the foyer on the right.

Nursery

We welcome children of all ages in worship; however, a nursery is available for infants and toddlers under four years old who may need it. Please see an usher for assistance.

Hearing Support

We have hearing assistive technology that connects via bluetooth available. Check with an usher for an instruction card to help you connect.

Visual Support – Large Print Hymnals & Bulletins

Large print hymnals and bulletins are available. The hymnals are located on the side table to the right of the pulpit at the front of the sanctuary. Ushers can help you locate both the hymnals and the bulletins as needed.

Connect + Grow + Serve



Use this QR code (or www.AvonUMC.net/HereIAm) to go online to let us know you're here, enter a prayer request, and/or make a contribution. You can also access volunteer opportunities, wish lists to support our local outreach, and/or sign up to provide flowers in honor/memory of someone one Sunday on the altar in worship.

Worship Credit

Our Worship Series for Lent, which includes prayers and artwork, is inspired by A Sanctified Art LLC (sanctifiedart.org).

The art on the front of the bulletin cover is titled Wedding Feast by John August Swanson.

First Sunday of Lent | February 22, 2026

Prelude

Partita on Jesu, der du meine Seele (Jesus, You Rescued my Soul)

Johann Pachelbel

Chiming of the Hour

Call to Worship

Sing of God Made Manifest

Carl Daw and Jakob Hintze

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Rev. Malinda Weaver

*** Opening Hymn No. 140**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*** Affirmation of Faith | The Apostles' Creed**

Jeanne Baker

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*** Gloria Patri**

GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,

as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen, Amen.

*** Ritual of Friendship**

* universal

Children's Moment

Larry Contri

Following the Children's Moment, children (kindergarten through second grade) will be escorted to Children's Church. Parents must pick up their child(ren) from the first floor classroom after the worship service.

Act of Centering No. 641

Fill My Cup, Lord

Fill my cup, Lord. I lift it up, Lord.

Come and quench this thirsting of my soul.

Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;

fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole. *(sing twice)*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

John 2:1-11

Choral Anthem

The Wedding Feast at Cana

Charles Lockhart | arr. Tim Blickham

Sermon

The good news is. . . so good it catches us by surprise

Pastoral Prayer with The Lord's Prayer

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.

Offering

Fantasia in G-minor

Johann Pachelbel

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav'nly host;

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Hymn of Praise No. 400

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

* Benediction

O May Christ's Peace Be Ours

Charles Lockhart

* Postlude

Toccata in C-major

Johann Pachelbel



During Lent, some liturgical traditions restrict instrumental music to accompaniment only, maintaining that silence best emphasizes the penitential nature of the season. In the United Methodist Church we do not take such a strict stance; however, I will make an effort to select music that is meditative and reflective in nature rather than overtly virtuosic and ecstatically joyous. (We'll allow those qualities to burst forth on Easter Sunday!)

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706) was an extremely influential German musician in the generation before J.S. Bach. He held important posts in Vienna, Stuttgart and Nürnberg, and left behind a large body of sacred and secular music, much of it for the keyboard. Today's Prelude, *Jesu, der du meine Seele*, is an example of the partita, an extended form in which a chorale tune (German hymn) is subjected to several different treatments. The chorale upon which this partita is based was written by Jakob Hintze in the mid-17th century and is sometimes known as *Salzburg*.

This same tune is also heard in our Call to Worship, *Sing of God Made Manifest*, here paired with words by contemporary hymn-writer and Episcopal priest, Carl P. Daw. The text recounts three seminal events in the life of Christ in which he revealed Himself to us: His baptism in the Jordan; His transfiguration on the mountain top; and His first miracle at Cana (the topic of today's Scripture). The Anthem continues this theme. A text by English hymnodist Hyde Beadon is set to the tune *Carlisle*, by 18th century organist Charles Lockhart, to relate the surprising story of Christ's miraculous and revelatory work at a wedding banquet.

Lent & Easter Opportunities

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

March 29 | 10:00am

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week as we recall Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We will have our traditional palm parade with folks young and old waving their palm branches. If you have children/youth, please have them meet Mrs. Stephanie and Ms. Diane in the foyer at 9:45am to get their palms and receive instructions for the processional.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

April 2 | 6:30pm

Before we can celebrate the triumph of Christ's resurrection on Easter, we must first journey with him through Holy Week to the cross. Join us for a special time of worship in our Sanctuary on Maundy Thursday as we remember the last supper Jesus had with his disciples, hear the scriptures read, and reflect on the final moments of Jesus' earthly life.

CELEBRATE EASTER – BRUNCH + WORSHIP

April 9

Celebrate Easter with your church family and friends with breakfast, fellowship, and worship. We'll have breakfast in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 8:30am. Bring flowers from your lawn or the grocery store (no judgment here!) to decorate the Easter cross on the lawn. We hope you'll come enjoy time together with family and friends before worship begins at 10:00am.

Connect + Grow + Serve

HAND TO HEART

Wednesday, February 25 | 10:00am-12:00pm

Through stitches and prayer, Hand to Heart shares comfort with those in need. This prayer shawl ministry meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month in the archive room (first floor) and welcomes both experienced needleworkers and those who want to learn. If you know someone who would be blessed by a prayer shawl, contact Barb Walker (205.672.9687).

WINTER NEEDS FOR OUR HOMELESS NEIGHBORS

Avondale Samaritan Place is collecting winter essentials (*hand warmers, skull caps, gloves, warm socks*) and our usual donation items (*body wipes, toothbrushes/paste, etc.*) for our homeless neighbors. Drop donations weekdays from 8–11am, bring them to worship on Sundays, or send them directly to us through our Amazon wishlist—just scan the QR code in your bulletin.

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, March 10 | 6:30pm

Join us each month on the second Tuesday at 6:30pm at the church to dive into thought-provoking reads that center around faith, spirituality, religion, and more. For March, we're reading *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl. For April, we're reading *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. Come with an open mind, a curious spirit, and maybe a friend or two.

WOMEN'S COFFEE

Wednesday, March 18 | 9:30am

Ladies—come as you are, bring a friend, and let's enjoy some great company together! Our coffee gatherings happen each month on the third Wednesday at General (3813 Clairmont Avenue, Birmingham 35222).



500 40TH STREET, SOUTH • BIRMINGHAM, AL 35222-3310