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*The Chancel flowers on the Altar are dedicated  
In memory of Fred Griffith*



*“Worship God, Love One Another, Serve the World”*



**Second Sunday in Lent  
March 5, 2023  
11:00 am Traditional Worship**

665 W Corbett Avenue  
Swansboro, North Carolina 28584  
910 326-4822  
[www.SwansboroUMC.org](http://www.SwansboroUMC.org)

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# Traditional Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude "Faith of Our Fathers" Terri Boykin

\*Greeting

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

We come this day hoping to encounter Christ.

**We come with burdens and questions that only He can answer.**

May we open our hearts to Him.

**May our lives be healed and strengthened for service. AMEN.**

\*Hymn UMH #98 "To God Be The Glory"

\*Opening Prayer of Confession

**Lord, we are such stubborn people. We want to know all the answers. We find it hard to place our trust even in your Son. When Jesus proclaims that we can have a new life, we want to know how this is possible. How can we get rid of the old burdens and difficulties and start over again? We confess that we have often misunderstood what Jesus has said and too often doubted that God could truly change us. Yet, the truth is new life is possible. We can place our trust in God's healing care. Forgive us, and help us, gracious Lord. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen**

\*Assurance of Pardon

New life is given to you. You can place your trust in God and follow God's way. God is with you. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.**

The Peace *(As forgiven, reconciled people, let us show one another signs of reconciliation & love).*

First Scripture Lesson: Genesis 12:1-4a Bobbi Edge

Psalms 121 UMH #844 Response #2

Children's Celebration

"Jesus Loves Me" UMH #191 *(Sung as the children come forward)*

Open Altar, Open Heart *(As "Call to Prayer" is sung, all are invited to come to the altar for morning prayer led by a Pastor).*

Call to Prayer "El Shaddai"

Pastoral Prayer

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

\*Gospel Lesson: John 3:1-21

Sermon "Encounter at Night"

Invitation

Communion Songs "You Are My King"  
"O How He Loves You and Me"

Giving of our Tithes, Offerings, and Connection Cards

Offertory "Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle"

\*Doxology UMH #94

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*The Great Thanksgiving

Breaking of the Bread, Giving of the Bread and Cup

Anointing Oil

Marie Hurst

*(All are invited to the table of the Lord. We serve by intinction, (take bread and dip a portion into the cup and then partake), or by using prepackaged communion elements. Those unable to come forward may raise their hand and an acolyte or pastor will bring communion to you.*

*After receiving, you may kneel for prayer and/or go to one of our prayer stations to receive anointing and prayer from one of our lay Stephen ministers. Offerings left at the altar rail go to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund used primarily to assist the needy.)*

Prayer after the Meal

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*Hymn UMH #634 "Now Let Us from This Table Rise"

\*Dismissal with Blessing

\*Postlude "Take Up Thy Cross" Terri Boykin

*\*Please stand as you are able.*