**Chimes**

**Greeting**

L: Come, let us worship God who is always with us.

**P: Let us open our hearts to the healing, restoring love of**

**God. AMEN.**

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Sharing the Life of the Church**

* Spiritual Gifts
* Artist’s Choice
* Easter Week
* Holy Conversations

**\*Invitation to Worship**

L: Weary and overwhelmed, we gather.
**P: God’s holy word revives us.**
L: Simple and confused, we yield.
**P: God’s word gives us wisdom.**
L: Blind and uncomprehending, we await.
**P: God’s word enlightens our eyes.**
L: More precious than gold is God’s word.
**P: Sweeter than honey are God’s commands.**

**\*Opening Hymn** The Old Rugged Cross UMH #504

**\*Opening Prayer**

O God, your weakness is mightier than human strength, your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. We rejoice that you are with us today. Open our hearts and discipline our will. Teach us to follow your perfect ways. Test us with your righteous decrees.  By your Spirit, guide us and turn us toward your holy light. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, comfort and redeem us with your holy gospel. Amen

**Children’s Moments**

**Special Music**

**Scripture 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

18For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

20Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. 22For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

26Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, 29so that no one might boast in the presence of God. 30He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” [[1]](#footnote-1)

**Scripture Response:**

L: The word of God for the people of God.

 **P: Thanks be to God!**

**Message** Never Gonna Get it! Stop Trying!

**\*Response** The Wonderful Cross (When I Survey) (Insert: Doug on Lead)

 **V1, V2, C, V3, C, C**

**Offering**

*Offertory Sentence: We worship a God of abundance, from whose hands flow all the blessings of our lives. May we be spared the sin of using these blessings simply for our own pleasure and purposes. Give us right and generous hearts, O God, that your blessings may flow from our hands to those in need.*

* *Offertory*
* *Doxology*

*Offertory Prayer: The wisdom of the world tells us to hoard what we own, O God, while you invite us to share what we have with those in need. Accept these gifts for your purposes, that we may be your servants in the world. Amen.*

**\*Closing Hymn** Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross UMH #301

 (Tempo 185)

**\*Benediction**

1. [*The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nrsv?ref=BibleNRSV.1Co1.18&off=50&ctx=+God%0a(Cp+Isa+29:14)%0a~18%C2%A0For+the+message+%E2%80%A2). (1989). (1 Co 1:18–31). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)