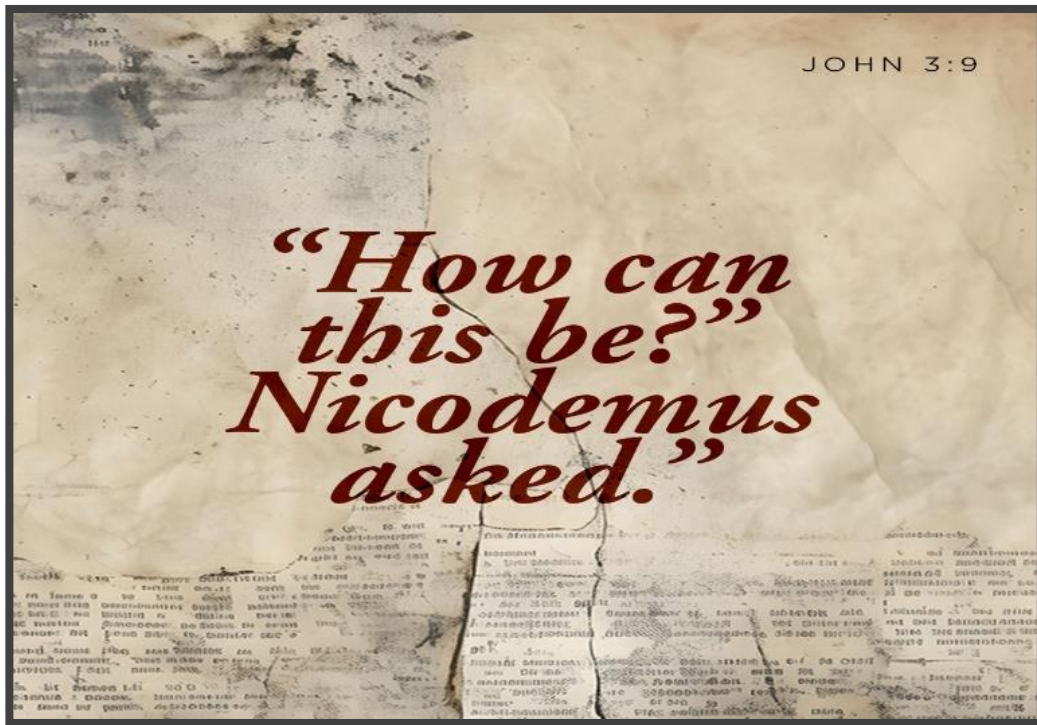




The Questions Jesus Asked

August 23, 2026

Scan to check out our website.



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ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE / COUNTDOWN

*OPENING PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Open the Eyes of My Heart

See Screens

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor

WELCOME OF GUEST

Pastor

PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor

"If being born again came with a fresh set of spiritual glasses, what is one thing you hope God would help you see more clearly—other than where you left your keys?"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Liturgist: We come before the God who promises to make all things new.

Congregation: Give us new hearts and renew our spirits.

Liturgist: Jesus calls us out of darkness and into the light.

Congregation: Open our eyes to see the kingdom of God.

Liturgist: The Spirit moves like the wind, bringing life where we could never create it ourselves.

Congregation: Breathe new life into us, O God.

Liturgist: Come, let us worship the One who loves us, claims us, and makes us new.

Congregation: We come to worship Jesus Christ with open hearts. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

And Can It Be That I Should Gain (vs. 1,3,4)

UMH #363

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Liturgist

We believe in GOD THE FATHER, who created us in love and calls us into new life.

We believe in JESUS CHRIST, the Son of God and Savior of the world, who came that we might know the truth, receive grace, and walk in the light.

We believe in the HOLY SPIRIT, who gives us new birth, opens our eyes to see God's kingdom, renews our hearts, and guides us in faithful living.

We believe that in Christ we are not defined by our failures, our fears, or our past, but are made new and welcomed as children of God.

We believe the Spirit is still moving—calling us to love, forgive, serve, and follow wherever God leads.

Therefore, we will walk by faith, live in grace, and trust the One who makes all things new. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

UMH #70

OLD TESTAMENT Ezekiel 36:26-27 (NKJV)

Liturgist

²⁶I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.

Liturgist: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank You for loving me. Give me new eyes to see, a new heart to love, and help me follow where Your Spirit leads. Make my life look more like You. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: John 3:1-17 (NKJV)

Liturgist

The New Birth

3 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

³Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

⁴Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

⁵Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹Nicodemus answered and said to Him, “How can these things be?”

¹⁰Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? ¹¹Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, *that is*, the Son of Man who is in heaven. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Liturgist: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

MISSION MOMENT

Operation Christmas Child

Diane Matthews

PRESENTATION OF PRAYERS AND PRAISE

Pastor

Prayer cards are located in the back of the pew in front of you. If you would like to turn in a prayer for the service and prayer chain, please fill out the card and pass it toward the center aisle of the congregation as we are singing the Hymn of Preparation.

HYMN OF PREPARATION
PASTORAL PRAYER

Breathe on Me, Breath of God (v. 1-4)

UMH #420
Pastor

SERMON

Pastor

Title: The Questions Jesus Asked

Theme: New Life, New Sight

Question: How can this be?

Main Idea: Being born again gives us new eyes, a new identity, and a new motivation through the Spirit.

SERMON NOTES

THE QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

New Life, New Sight

Question: “How can this be?” — John 3:9

Scripture: Ezekiel 36:26–27 / John 3:1–15

MAIN IDEA

Being born again gives us new eyes, a new identity, and a new motivation through the Spirit.

1. NEW EYES

“No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” — John 3:3

Before we can live differently, we have to _____ differently.

Being born again helps us see:

God at work around us. / People through grace. / Hope in broken places.

Who might God be asking me to see differently?

MY NOTES

2. NEW IDENTITY

“The Spirit gives birth to spirit.” — John 3:6

My past may explain part of my story, but it does not have to _____ me.

In Christ, I am a child of God.

Live from your new identity, not your old insecurity.

You are not beyond grace.

You are not too old to grow.

You are not too broken to be restored.

MY NOTES

TAKE IT HOME

3. NEW MOTIVATION

“The wind blows wherever it pleases...” — John 3:8

We cannot see the wind, but we can see its effects.

When the Spirit moves:

Bitterness loosens.

Compassion grows.

Prayer deepens.

Courage replaces fear.

Service becomes more than obligation.

Instead of asking only:

What do I want?

Ask: *What does God desire?*

What is easiest?

Ask: *What is faithful?*

How will this benefit me?

Ask: *How can this bless someone else?*

MY NOTES

TRIM YOUR SAILS THIS WEEK

Pray: “Holy Spirit, move in me today.”

Read John 3:1–15

Look for God at work. / Remember who you are in Christ

Follow one prompting to encourage, forgive, serve, or love

ONE QUESTION TO CARRY HOME

“God, what are You making new in me?”

REMEMBER

Nicodemus came to Jesus in the dark, but he came.

Come honestly. / Bring your questions. / Trust Jesus. / Follow the Spirit. / Let God make you new.

RECEIVING OF TITHES AND SACRIFICES (Celebrating Our Gifts)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious God, You are the giver of every good gift and the source of new life. Receive these gifts as an expression of our gratitude and faith. Use them to bring hope to the hurting, grace to the weary, and the good news of Jesus Christ to our community and beyond. Holy Spirit, guide us not only in what we give, but in how we live. In Jesus' name. Amen.

PASSING THE PLATE

*DOXOLOGY	<i>Praise God, From Whom All Blessings</i>	UMH #95
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*HYMN OF CELEBRATION	<i>Blessed Assurance</i> (vs. 1-3)	UMH #369
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*COMMISSION / BENEDICTION	Pastor
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Nicodemus came to Jesus in the darkness, but Jesus offered him the promise of new life. So go from this place with new eyes to see where God is working, with a new identity, knowing that you belong to God, and with a new motivation, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide your life. You cannot control the wind, but you can raise your sails. So this week, pray boldly, listen carefully, love generously, forgive freely, and when the Spirit nudges you toward one faithful step—follow the wind. Go in the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit...and all of God's Children said...Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE	<i>Freely, Freely</i> (vs.1-2)	UMH #389
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* Please stand as you are able.