



February 22, 2026

WORSHIP SERVICE

Pastor Jermell Witherspoon

Prelude

Adagio Cantabile, by R. Nathaniel Dett

Welcome & Making Space for Spirit

Grounding Song: "Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley"

*Jesus walked this lonesome valley,
he had to walk it by himself;
O, nobody else could walk it for him;*



Winter Church Office Hours
Tue-Thurs, 2:00-4:30 pm
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GIVE ONLINE HERE



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Pastor Jermell Witherspoon, Music Director Sam Peters

He had to walk it by himself.

Call to Worship

Leader: Beloved community, we gather at the intersection of memory and repentance.

People: We gather in Black History Month and at the doorway of Lent.

Leader: We remember the resilience of Black bodies, Black faith, and Black freedom dreams.

People: We honor stories of survival, resistance, and sacred dignity.

Leader: We remember that the God who formed us from dust also calls us toward justice.

People: From dust we were made, and toward beloved community we are called.

Leader: Jesus stands among the suffering and asks a question that still echoes today:

People: "Do you want to be made well?"

Leader: When systems are broken and history is heavy

People: We seek healing, O God.

Leader: When racism, inequity, and silence wound the body of Christ

People: Make us well, O God.

Leader: When Lent calls us to repentance and truth-telling

People: Give us courage to turn toward justice.

Leader: Come, people of God, let us worship the One who heals bodies, restores communities, and calls us to wholeness.

People: We come to be made well.

Shared Singing: "I want Jesus to Walk with Me", African American Spiritual

Prayers of the People/ Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response: "Balm of Gilead". NCH 553 (refrain, verse 1, refrain)

Anthem

"O God How We Have Wandered", based on a German Love Song, harmonized by Johann Sebastian Bach. Text adapted from Luke and Corinthians.

Scripture 2: John 5:6-10, King James Bible

When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith

unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the Sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.

Sermon: "Do You want to be Made Well?"

Pastor Jermell Witherspoon

Discussion

Invitation to Share

Doxology: "Praise God from Whom all blessings flow"
*Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above ye heav'nly host;
Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost*

Shared Singing: "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing", NCH 593
Words: James Weldon Johnson, Music: J. Rosamund Johnson

Closing Benediction

Leader: As we honor Black history, remember: resilience is holy.

People: We will carry forward the work of justice and dignity.

Leader: As we enter Lent, remember: repentance is sacred.

People: We will turn toward healing and transformation.

Leader: When Jesus asks, "Do you want to be made well?"

People: We will answer with our lives: Yes, Lord.

Leader: Go now as people formed from dust, called to justice, and destined for wholeness.

People: Amen.

Postlude

I Know the Lord Has Laid His Hands on Me, by Florence Price