Reflection Questions:
The Altogether Christian

Suitable for sermon preparation, small group discussion, or personal devotion.

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; 30 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." – Mark 12:28-31

WITH ALL YOUR SOUL

(Being, identity, existence, surrender)

- Loving God with all the soul asks for the offering of our whole life, not only in "religious" moments. Which areas of life remain compartmentalized from faith?
- Wesley's turning point came when faith moved from effort to trust. Where might striving still undermine surrender in your spiritual life?
- At Jesus' baptism, identity preceded ministry. How would your life shift if identity as beloved of God came before productivity or success?
- If love of God and our innate belovedness shape identity at the deepest level, how would you describe your life's identity and purpose? In other words, what is your "call to be" statement and your "call to do" statement?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Wesley asked listeners to examine whether they were almost or altogether Christians. Where is God inviting deeper transformation rather than surface improvement?
- Where is the Holy Spirit inviting movement from almost to altogether love?
- What would it mean for our congregation to become an all-together community, loving God and neighbor with all we are and have?
- If the word "all" disappeared from the Great Commandment, how would discipleship shrink? What does including it change?