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 STRENGTH

(Energy, action, resources, power, influence)

- The Hebrew word behind "strength" includes resources and capacity. How do our use of time, money, energy, and influence reveal what we love most? What would our checkbooks and calendars reveal about our love of God?
- The Good Samaritan and early church demonstrate love that interrupts schedules and reallocates resources. Where might God be inviting more costly love?
- What would ministry and life look like if every gift, skill, and opportunity were seen as belonging to God?
- How might the Great Commandment speak to our membership vows: "As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ?"

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?