

Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—February 18, 2024



This is the first Sunday in a 40-day journey toward the cross and empty tomb. It marks a season of self-examination, repentance – a turning away from sin and establishing practices of righteousness and a commitment to the message of the cross. This year, we will be using the resource *Surprised by Hope* by N.T. Wright. Copies of the study guide are available at the Atrium entrance area. Video study materials are available online through Rightnow Media by the same name. Free access is available by contacting the office at jhelton@armstrongchapel.org.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

By Chris Heckert

Leader: Forty days in the desert, Jesus was tempted to become relevant, spectacular, and powerful.

People: **Today, we begin to journey with Jesus through the season of Lent.**

Leader: We have come to face some of our own weaknesses and temptations.

People: **Let us worship God and walk the journey together.**

*HYMN

Hope of the World
#178 UMH

Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion,
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.
Save us, thy people, from consuming passion,
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.

Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
still let thy spirit unto us be given,
to heal earth's wounds and end all bitter strife.

Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
showing to wandering souls the path of light,
walk thou beside us lest the tempting byways
lure us away from thee to endless night.

Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us
from death and dark despair, from sin and guilt,
we render back the love thy mercy gave us;
take thou our lives, and use them as thou wilt.

Hope of the world, O Christ o'er death victorious,
who by this sign didst conquer grief and pain,
we would be faithful to thy gospel glorious;
thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign.

Author: Georgia Harkness (1954)

Composer: V. Earle Copes (1963)

Words © 1954, renewed 1982 The Hymn Society of America.

Music © 1963 Abingdon Press.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 96:11-13 (NRSV)

- ¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that fills it;
¹² let the field exult and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
¹³ before the Lord, for God is coming,
for God is coming to judge the earth.
God will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with truth.

The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

TIME SINGING OUR FAVORITE HYMNS—8:20am

TIME WITH CHILDREN—9:40am

Dianna Sheely

HYMN

Lead Me, Lord
#473 UMH

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;
make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only,
that makest me dwell in safety.

Words: Scripture: Psalm 4:8; Psalm 5:8

Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1861)

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

By Chris Heckert and Beverly S. Bailey

God, you know our hearts. You have knitted our inmost being and you know our deepest desires, fears and worries. Help us to journey during this Lenten season into a new awareness of your presence in our lives. Save us from our own temptations, so that we may more freely follow you.

God of mercy, we thank you for creating the incredible world in which we live. Each day as we go out into this world, we are caught up in its complexity. The sun's warmth, the dew on the grass, the power of a thunderstorm, and the playfulness of your creatures draw us in. How wonderful it would be if we could simply live in this world and enjoy it. But instead we barely take notice of it as we hurry to our cars or to the school bus to rush off to work or school. We say to ourselves, "This weekend we will spend with those we love and do something together outside." But far too often the weekend gets by us as well. If we're outside at all, it's to watch our children play soccer, and then rush off to another child's activity.

Our temptations are different than Jesus', but also the same. They have to do with the search for power, the desire to protect ourselves and our loved ones, and our desire to be safe in a scary world. We think about what we can do to make our world a better place, but we really don't have time to do anything. Besides, we're just one person - what can we do?

Help us to remember that what we can do is to follow you. We can study what is written in the Bible. We can follow the model of Jesus as he says, "*Get behind me, Satan!*" For it is written, "*Worship the Lord your God, and serve only God.*" We can remember to love our neighbor as ourselves. Don't give up on us, God. Help us during this Lenten season to remember that we are your people; give us courage to "hope" with you.

Hear now the silent prayers of our hearts: (Silence)

Jesus taught us to pray saying: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

HYMN

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make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only,
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Words: Scripture:Psalm 4:8; Psalm 5:8
Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1861)

GIVING

*RESPONSE

#95, UMH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 21:1-5 (NRSV)

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.



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MESSAGE

Hope for the World
Rev. David W. Brown

*Definition of the Church: "People who gather together to share hope and be people of hope in the world."
- N.T. Wright*

*HYMN

When We All Get to Heaven
#701 UMH

Sing the wondrous love of Jesus;
sing his mercy and his grace.
In the mansions bright and blessed
he'll prepare for us a place.

Refrain:

*When we all get to heaven,
what a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
we'll sing and shout the victory!*

While we walk the pilgrim pathway,
clouds will overspread the sky;
but when traveling days are over,
not a shadow, not a sigh. (Refrain)

Let us then be true and faithful,
trusting, serving every day;
just one glimpse of him in glory
will the toils of life repay. (Refrain)

Onward to the prize before us!
Soon his beauty we'll behold;
soon the pearly gates will open;
we shall tread the streets of gold. (Refrain)

Author: Eliza E. Hewitt (1898)
Composer: Emily D. Wilson (1898)

BENEDICTION

Adapted from a writing by Nathan Nettleton

Go now, confessing Christ as Lord, in word and deed.
Worship and serve the Lord your God and no other.
Stand firm in the time of trial; tell the story of God's
goodness, and trust in the Lord whose saving word is
always your hope.

In the name of the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.
Amen.

**Stand as you are able*

Liturgist at 8:20 – Mark Paluta

Liturgist at 9:40 – Hanlin Bavelly

9:40 Prelude – Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

*Handbell Quintet: Barbara Bell, Fran Baker Black,
Dean Elliott, Claudia Karakostas, and Nancy Leslie*

9:40 Offertory – O How I Love Jesus

Handbell Solo: Fran Baker Black

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given in honor of Shelley
Bamberger by her grandson, Tom Lake.*

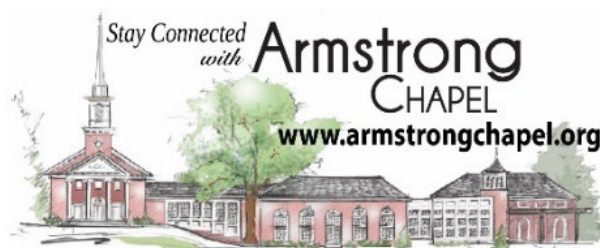


*Gather for coffee and treats in the Atrium
following the 9:40 service!*

REGISTER YOUR
ATTENDANCE



ONLINE
GIVING



5125 Drake Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45243 – 513-561-4220

Rev. David Brown, Lead Pastor — Rev. Sara O'Connor, Director of Community Outreach & Group Ministries
Dianna Sheely, Director of Children, Family, and Women's Ministries

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MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

**Wednesdays, March 6, 13, 21
from 6:00-8:00pm in the
Armstrong Room**

Come learn what it means to be a member of the United Methodist Church and Armstrong Chapel.

Sign up by checking Box #4 on your Connect Card or go to <https://bit.ly/3xuP3gr> to sign up online. If you need childcare, please let us know.

During Lent, we will partner with Inter Parish Ministry to help stock their pantry with necessary food items. This time of year, food pantries often run low on many items. Through

Sunday, March 24, please bring in **pasta, applesauce, crackers, and granola bars** for IPM. Let's help to meet needs in our community during this season of Lent through food items and prayer. Pray for families in our communities for their needs to be met – both physically and spiritually. Lent is a time of reflecting on our need for the grace and work of the Cross and preparing our hearts for the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who gives us new life and all that we need.



YOUNG COUPLES' SMALL GROUP

Sundays through March 17
10:45-11:30am in the Armstrong Room

Prayer, Scripture, and Encouragement

rightnow MEDIA

During Lent, we encourage you to use the video series *Surprised by Hope* by N.T. Wright on RightNow Media as an additional resource to our sermon series.

Designed for use with the *Surprised by Hope Participant's Guide* available on the resource cart at the Atrium entrance.

For your **FREE** access to RightNow Media, call or email Joy in the church office (513-561-4220, jhelton@armstrongchapel.org).

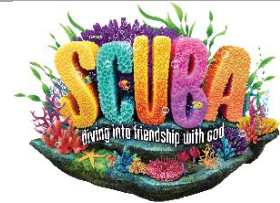
Women UNITED

Monthly Luncheon

FEBRUARY 21
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

National Exemplar
6880 Wooster Pike

RSVP to Dianna Sheely



vacation Bible school registration is open to dive into a friendship with God!

July 15-18, Monday-Thursday from 9:30-12
\$65 per child (age 4 to entering grade 5)

ArmstrongChapel.org/children