

Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—February 25, 2024



This is the 2nd 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 Robert Blezard

Leader: Hear of God's promise.

The promise rests on grace.

People: **God gives life to the dead.**

Leader: God calls into being things that did not exist.

People: **God came to us through Jesus.**

Leader: The promise rests on grace.

Jesus died and rose again to save us.

People: **God's grace comes to us through faith.**

*HYMN

Take Up Thy Cross

#415 UMH

“Take up thy cross,” the Savior said,
“if thou wouldst my disciple be;
deny thyself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me.”

Take up thy cross, let not its weight
fill thy weak spirit with alarm;
his strength shall bear thy spirit up,
and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.

Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,
nor let thy foolish pride rebel;
thy Lord for thee the cross endured,
to save thy soul from death and hell.

Take up thy cross and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Author: Charles W. Everest (1833)

Composer: William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed,

#881 UMH

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;*
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the
dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic** church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Traditional use of this creed includes these words: “He descended into hell.”

**universal

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SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 44:3-4 (NIV)

³ For I will pour water on the thirsty land,
and streams on the dry ground;
I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring,
and my blessing on your descendants.
⁴ They will spring up like grass in a meadow,
like poplar trees by flowing streams.

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

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**

TIME SINGING OUR FAVORITE HYMNS—8:20am

TIME WITH CHILDREN—9:40am

Dianna Sheely

HYMN

Be Still, My Soul
#534 UMH vs 1

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change God faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Words: Katharina von Schlegel (1752)
Music: Jean Sibelius (1899)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

By Nancy C. Townley

Lord, you know how we like “instant” things. We want our food prepared in an instant; we want our broken items repaired instantly; we want funds available to us the instant we ask for them. We want you to instantly respond to our needs.

You have called us to be part of this journey and this is not an “instant” trip of healing and hope. It will be difficult. We will have to look deep inside ourselves to find the barriers that block our vision. Our expectations for instant gratification need to be broken down. These are walls we erect that keep us from really dealing with the hurts and sorrow of the world. We are not on a nice little trip to a special place where the roses bloom and the birds sing. We are on a journey in an arid and dusty place where rocks, scorpions, snakes, and dry dust threaten our way.

We are called to be those who would bear hope in such a place. Prepare us for this portion of this journey, Lord. Help us to be realistic. Help us to remember that the good that we do, no matter how small it seems, is truly good in your sight. Enable us to work together for peace and harmony in your world. Draw us closer to you and help us to trust in you.

HYMN

Be Still, My Soul
#534 UMH vs 2

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future, as in ages past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
the Christ who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Words: Katharina von Schlegel (1752)
Music: Jean Sibelius (1899)

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

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (NRSV)

¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation ...

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

MESSAGE

The Hope of the Resurrection
Rev. David W. Brown



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***HYMN**

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

#297 UMH

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land;
a home within the wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat,
and the burden of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus
mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One
who suffered there for me;
and from my stricken heart with tears
two wonders I confess:
the wonders of redeeming love
and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all the cross.

Author; Elizabeth C. Clephane (1872)
Composer: Frederick C. Maker (1881)

BENEDICTION

By Robert Blezard

God's promises endure from generation to generation.

May the God of Abraham and Sarah,
the God who sent Jesus to redeem us,
the God whose covenant is eternal,
bless you and make you fruitful.

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

**Stand as you are able*

Liturgist at 8:20 – Lisa Dayton

Liturgist at 9:40 – Shelley Bamberger

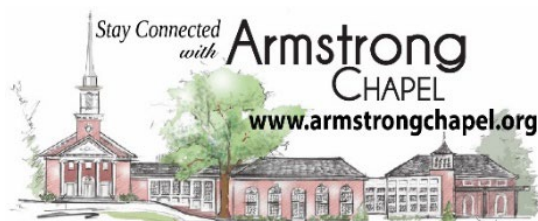


Gather for coffee and treats in the Atrium following the 9:40 service!

**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.



Hands & Hearts Ministry

A Prayer Shawl and Creative Ministry

We hope you will gather for our first regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday morning, April 2**, from 10:30-12:30 in the Armstrong Room to enjoy the fellowship that comes from making a small difference in the lives of those who might benefit from a handmade item on their journey to wholeness. We will be working on prayer shawls, lap blankets, stuffed animals, etc. You do not need to know how to knit, crochet, or sew to participate. There will be many options to help such as creating tags, bagging, and sorting. The fellowship will be as important as the mission work and we hope you will come and be a part of something special! *Bring a friend!*

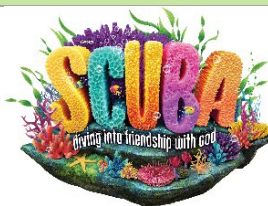
Questions? Connect with Robin Nielsen (ihbookmom@aol.com) or Jill Crowell (jcrowell@aol.com).

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).



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