

# Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—March 3, 2024



This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:jhelton@armstrongchapel.org).

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

written by Rev. Daniel Commerford

Leader: Return to the Lord your God,

**People: for God is gracious.**

Leader: Confess to the Lord your God,

**People: for God is merciful.**

Leader: Repent to the Lord your God,

**People: for God is slow to anger.**

Leader: Praise the Lord your God,

**People: for God abounds in steadfast love.**

Leader: Worship the Lord your God.

**People: Together, let us worship God!**

### \*HYMN

*For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

#614 UMH

For the bread which you have broken,  
for the wine which you have poured,  
for the words which you have spoken,  
now we give you thanks, O Lord.

By this pledge that you do love us,  
by your gift of peace restored,  
by your call to heaven above us,  
hallow all our lives, O Lord.

With our sainted ones in glory  
seated at the heavenly board,  
may the church that's waiting for you  
keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.

In your service, Lord, defend us,  
in our hearts keep watch and ward;  
in the world where you have sent us,  
let your kingdom come, O Lord.

Author: Louis F. Benson (1924)

Composer: V. Earle Copes (1960)

Music © 1960, renewed 1988 Hope Publishing Co.

### \*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 Ephesians 1:7-10 (NRSV)

<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

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 *I Need Thee Every Hour* #397 UMH refrain only

I need thee, O I need thee; every hour I need thee;  
O bless me now My Savior, I come to thee.

Words: Annie S. Hawks (1872)  
Music: Robert Lowry (1873)

## CONFESSIONAL PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

adapted from *Lenten Prayer Service: The Spirit of Almsgiving*

We come before our God, who is full of compassion,  
to ask forgiveness and mercy.

When in our excesses we consume more than our  
share while others go with basic needs unmet:  
**Forgive us, merciful God.**

When we are blinded by our affluence  
and fail to reach out in care and concern:  
**Forgive us, merciful God.**

When we are overwhelmed by desires for power  
and overlook a neighbor with needs:  
**Forgive us, merciful God.**

When possessions cloud our view of the world  
and try to replace your gracious love:  
**Forgive us, merciful 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**

## HYMN *I Need Thee Every Hour* #397 UMH refrain only

I need thee, O I need thee; every hour I need thee;  
O bless me now My Savior, I come to thee.

Words: Annie S. Hawks (1872)  
Music: Robert Lowry (1873)

## 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 Matthew 6:9-10 (NRSV)

<sup>9</sup> "Pray, then, in this way:  
Our Father in heaven,  
may your name be revered as holy.  
<sup>10</sup> May your kingdom come.  
May your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.

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

## MESSAGE *The Hope of Heaven* Rev. David W. Brown

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

By Rev. Galblog Pals

Friends, we have acknowledged before God and in each other's presence that we depend on God for our lives, that we are sorry for our sins, that we long to be reconciled in the peace of Christ, and that we are ready to turn around and walk in a new way of love.

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Come now to the table of Jesus, where Christ presides, our gracious host. Come to the table of Jesus, where he calls us and where he waits for us, eager to heal us, to persuade us of his love, to welcome us with an unconditional welcome. Come to the table of Jesus, where he feeds his friends with wonderful gifts. Come to this table, from which we always arise with a blessing, no longer strangers, not even guests, but children all alike of a merciful God.

“This is the cup of salvation, shed in my blood, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.”

For as long as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the resurrection of our living Savior until he comes again.

Together, we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, we give you thanks for your gifts of bread and juice and ask that they may transform us to your presence. We give you thanks that, even though we will return to dust, you nevertheless invite us to this meal as a friend. Though we are not worthy of the grace received here, we are invited as the most beloved of companions. Send your Spirit to abide with us that we may abide with you.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

By Rev. Stephen M. Fearing

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

God of all goodness and grace, we have gathered on this solemn Ash Wednesday, to mark with ashes, and to be bluntly reminded of our mortality. You formed us from dust and to dust we shall return. Even amidst the solemnity of these moments, we give you thanks for calling us your children. We give you thanks for calling us on this journey. We remember that we are human and you alone are God.

In this season of Lent, we gather on a journey of trust – trust that your creation does not end with our death. With all creation, in every time and place, we join the everlasting chorus:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Standing between past and future, we remember the journey we will take again while we wait for that blessed Easter. We remember Jesus' birth into human dust. We remember how he grew up in wisdom and in years – how he invited disciples to follow him, how he stood up to the powers that be, how he touched the sinner and challenged the saint, how he preached good news to the poor and marginalized, how he cared as much for people's bodies as he did their souls.

We remember how he gathered his friends on the night he was betrayed, how he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: “Take, eat, do this in remembrance of me.” Likewise, he took the cup and, pouring it, said:

## SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

*The elements are gluten free. Come by the center aisle, receive a piece of the bread and dip it into the cup and immediately receive. There are sealed elements available by the grand piano if this allows you to participate in the meal. Come for all are invited to share at the Table of the Lord. You need not be a member of Armstrong Chapel or the United Methodist Church.*

## \*HYMN

*Lift High the Cross*  
#159 UMH

Refrain:

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.  
The hosts of God in unity combine. [Refrain]

Each newborn servant of the Crucified  
bears on the brow the seal of him who died. [Refrain]

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.  
[Refrain]

So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! [Refrain].

Author: George William Kitchin (1916, alt.)  
Michael Robert Newbolt (1916)  
Composer: Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1916)  
© 1974 Hope Publishing Co.

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## BENEDICTION

written by Bruce Prewer

The quiet strength of Christ,  
the humble power of God,  
and the pervasive light of the Spirit,  
is yours today and always.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Liturgist at 8:20 – Greg Bailie

Liturgist at 9:40 – Jane Florer



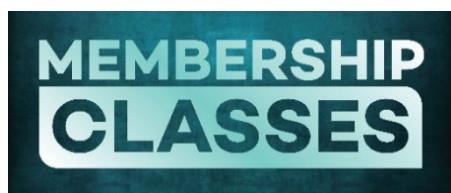
Gather for coffee and treats in the Atrium following the 9:40 service!

\*Stand as you are able

REGISTER YOUR  
ATTENDANCE



ONLINE  
GIVING



**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

**Organizational Meeting Tuesday, April 2**  
Robin Nielsen's home 7275 Cayuga Drive  
(3 minutes from the church)  
10:30am-12:30pm w/Refreshments!

Be part of something special as we launch a new monthly prayer shawl and creative ministry. Experience the sense of purpose that comes from making a small difference in the lives of those who might benefit from a handmade item on their journey to wholeness. Whether it's a prayer shawl, lap blanket, pocket prayer square, or prayer bear for a child, you do not need to be able to sew, crochet, or knit, to join this new group. There will be many options to help such as attaching prayers and labels, cutting patterns, and packaging. Bring a friend! Anyone is welcome! We want to create a community of givers using our hands and hearts and have fun and fellowship in the process.

Questions or to RSVP, connect with Robin Nielsen ([ihbookmom@aol.com](mailto:ihbookmom@aol.com)) or Jill Croswell ([jcroswell@aol.com](mailto:jcroswell@aol.com)).

## LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF RESURRECTION

Come experience the story of Easter in a whole new way! This walk-through immersive exhibit in the Atrium will take you through Jesus' final week leading to the Resurrection.  
March 3-April 7



**"DON'T BE ALARMED," HE SAID. "YOU ARE  
LOOKING FOR JESUS THE NAZARENE, WHO  
WAS CRUCIFIED. HE HAS RISEN!"**



**Lilies and spring flowers will  
decorate the Sanctuary on  
Easter Sunday.**

You may purchase a plant in honor of or in memory of loved ones. \$25 per plant. You may take a plant home with you on Easter Sunday. Please return baskets to the church.

Online order form: <https://bit.ly/3dji6CXC> or send a check and a note to the church office. Orders need to be received by Monday 3/25.

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## Egg Hunt

11:00am on Easter Sunday  
Bring your basket!  
Meet in the Atrium.

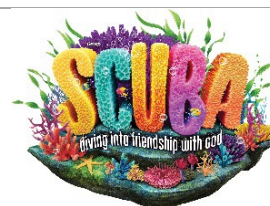


Women UNITED

Monthly Luncheon

**MARCH 13**  
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](http://ArmstrongChapel.org/children)

# Holy Week

PALM Sunday



PALM Sunday

**March 24**

8:20am in the Old Chapel  
9:40am in the Sanctuary  
10:30am in the Worship Center

Each of the services will celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and the Passion of Holy Week. We will wave palms and encounter the emotions of a point in history that will change the world forever!

MAUNDY Thursday



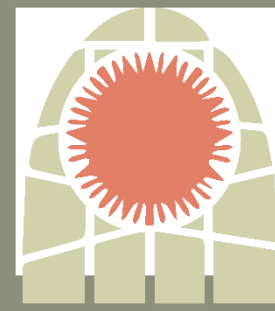
MAUNDY Thursday

**March 28**

7:00pm in the Worship Center  
Experience elements of a traditional Passover at this family-friendly event. We'll hear about how God delivered His people during the Exodus and rejoice in how God delivers His people through Jesus Christ.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served, so RSVPs would be helpful. Check box #1 on your Connect Card on Sunday or email Pastor Sara at [soconnor@armstrongchapel.org](mailto:soconnor@armstrongchapel.org).

EASTER Sunday



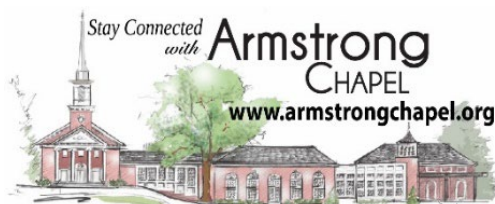
EASTER Sunday

**March 31**

8:20am in the Old Chapel  
9:40am in the Sanctuary  
10:30am in the Worship Center

Celebrate the Risen Lord!

Services will be designed so volunteers, workers, and children may attend worship services with their families. Activity bags will be available. No Sunday School or Nursery this Sunday only.



**ONLINE**

Streaming & Information

Share in Worship  
Bible Studies  
Upcoming Events

Follow Us   

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