

# Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—March 17, 2024



This is the 5th 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 Moira Laidlaw

**Leader:** In one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks,

**People:** **We rejoice in the salvation of God.**

**Leader:** The body does not consist of one member but of many.

**People:** **We are one Body through Christ.**

**Leader:** If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

**People:** **Baptized by the Spirit, we claim our membership of the body of Christ.**

### \*HYMN

*Here I am, Lord*  
#593 UMH

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin  
My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

Chorus:

*Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them,  
Whom shall I send? [Chorus]

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send? [Chorus]

Text & Music: Dan Schutte (1981)  
Adapter: Carlton R. Young (1988)  
© 1981 OCP

### \*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.**

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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

## SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 (NRSV)

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised, <sup>14</sup> and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup> If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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 *Near to the Heart of God*  
#472 UMH, refrain only

O Jesus, blest Redeemer,  
sent from the heart of God,  
hold us who wait before thee  
near to the heart of God.

Words & Music: Cleland B. McAfee (1903)



## CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION—9:40

### CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

### PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

written by Sara Hargreaves

O Lord, in you we have hope.  
John writes in Revelation 21:

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth;  
for the first earth had passed away, and the sea was  
no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,  
coming down out of heaven from God,*

We pray for those who are lonely. We hope in the promise that the home of God will be among people: that God will dwell with us, that we will be God's people and that God will be with us.

We mention in our hearts those we know who are lonely or isolated.

*Pause*

Lord you said, 'See, I am making all things new.'  
**'Amen, make all things new!'**

We pray for those who are crying; the sad, the depressed and the anxious. We hope in the promise that God will wipe every tear from our eyes.

We mention in our hearts those we know who are sad and who know tears.

*Pause*

Lord you said, 'See, I am making all things new.'  
**'Amen, make all things new!'**

We pray for those who are experiencing the consequences of death, the bereaved and those who are mourning.

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We hope in the promise that death and mourning will be no more.

We mention in our hearts those we know who are affected by death and mourning...

*Pause*

Lord you said, 'See, I am making all things new.'  
**'Amen, make all things new!'**

We pray for those who are in pain, suffering from illness either physical or mental. We hope in the promise that crying and pain will be no more.

We mention in our hearts those we know who are ill or in pain.

*Pause*

Lord you said, 'See, I am making all things new.'  
**'Amen, make all things new!'**

We pray for those who are thirsty for truth, love and grace; those who seek God and discipleship with earnest hearts. We hope in the promise that God will give water to the thirsty without cost from the spring of the water of life.

We mention in our hearts those we know who hunger and thirst for God.

*Pause*

Lord you said, 'See, I am making all things new.'  
**'Amen, make all things new!'**

Lord, your words are trustworthy and true. You are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. We pray all this in the powerful and hopeful name of Jesus Christ, who 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

*Near to the Heart of God*  
#472 UMH, refrain only

O Jesus, blest Redeemer,  
sent from the heart of God,  
hold us who wait before thee  
near to the heart of God.

Words & Music: Cleland B. McAfee (1903)

## 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

Acts 17:22-32 (NRSV)

<sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we, too, are his offspring.'

<sup>29</sup> "Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

<sup>32</sup> When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed, but others said, "We will hear you again about this."

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## MESSAGE

*The Hope of Salvation*  
Rev. David W. Brown

## \*HYMN

*O Jesus, I Have Promised*  
#396 UMH

O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
be thou forever near me,  
my Master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle  
if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me!  
The world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me,  
around me and within;  
but Jesus, draw thou nearer,  
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will.  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen,  
thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised  
to all who follow thee  
that where thou art in glory  
there shall thy servant be.  
And Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my Friend.

Text: John E. Bode (ca. 1866)  
Music: Arthur H. Mann (1881)

## BENEDICTION

from re:worship

May God, who began the good work within you,  
continue to be at work in your life, bringing  
everything to completion on the day when Christ  
Jesus comes back again.

May your love for others overflow more and more,  
and may you keep growing in your knowledge and  
understanding.

Never forget what really matters, so that you may live  
a pure and blameless life until Christ returns.

May you always be filled with the fruit of your  
salvation—through God the Creator, Jesus the Son  
and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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*\*Stand as you are able*

*Liturgist at 8:20 – Greg Bailie*  
*Liturgist at 9:40 – Hanlin Bavely*

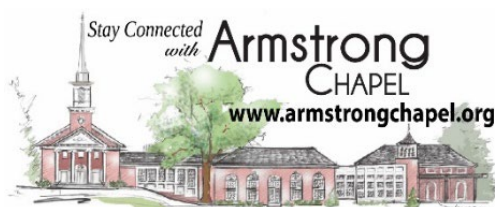


*Gather for coffee and treats in the Atrium  
following the 9:40 service!*

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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## CONFIRMATION



**Barrett Black**  
Andy & Courtney Black



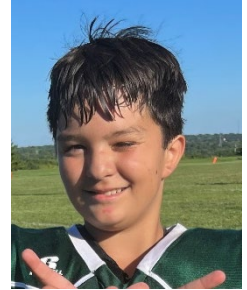
**Andrew Copfer**  
Brian & Beth Copfer



**Luke Egnaczyk**  
Greg & Heather Egnaczyk



**Pierce Egnaczyk**  
Greg & Heather Egnaczyk



**Carlos Garduno**  
Jackie Rowedder  
& Keenan Mikal



**Audrey Gibson**  
Sean & Julia Gibson



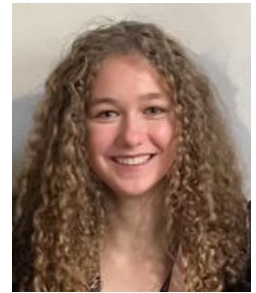
**Betsy Grant**  
Geoff & Kathryn Grant



**Rhys Johnson**  
Steve & Erika Johnson



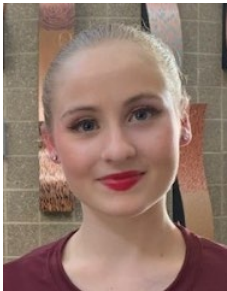
**Alex Karacostas**  
Vel & Claudia Karacostas



**Sofia Karacostas**  
Vel & Claudia Karacostas



**Colin Nielsen**  
Jon & Jessica Nielsen



**Anna O'Connor**  
Paul & Sara O'Connor



**Charlie O'Connor**  
Paul & Sara O'Connor



**Luke O'Connor**  
Paul & Sara O'Connor



**Nick Rucker**  
Steve & Tina Rucker



**Jenny Willingham**  
Tom & Cam Willingham



**Julie Willingham**  
Tom & Cam Willingham

# Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—March 17, 2024



*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/3dj6CXC> or send a check and a note to the church office. Orders need to be received by Monday 3/25.

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 Crosswell ([jcrosswell@aol.com](mailto:jcrosswell@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.



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

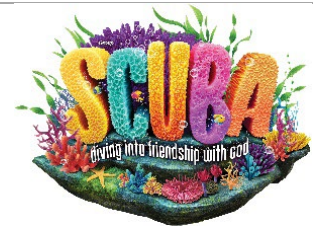
## Egg Hunt

**11:30am on Easter Sunday**

Bring your basket!  
Meet in the Atrium.



All-Church  
**SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA**  
*Walking in the Light of Jesus*  
**April 7** 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
*in the Atrium*  
**FOOD FELLOWSHIP FUN**  
Have fun building lanterns to illuminate and shine the light of Jesus.



**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)

# Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—March 17, 2024

## 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 the coming week. We will wave palms and encounter the emotions of a week that will change the world forever!

MAUNDY Thursday



MAUNDY Thursday

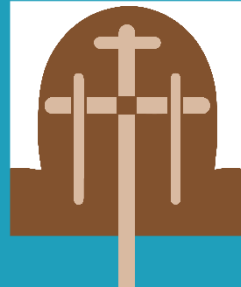
**March 28**

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).

GOOD Friday



GOOD Friday

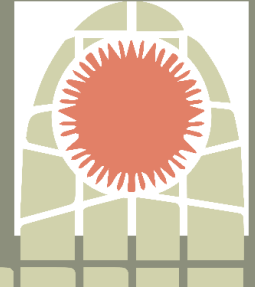
**March 29**

6:30pm Gaines UMC  
5707 Madison Rd, 45227

The Seven Last Words  
from the Cross

Before we rush into celebrating the resurrection part of Easter, we need to consider the last words of Jesus on the cross. Until we understand Good Friday, we can't understand Resurrection Sunday.

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.