

Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—April 7, 2024



PRELUDE

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

written by Nancy C. Townley

Leader: How joyful it is, to celebrate the good news of God's love!

People: **We are called to be Easter people!**

Leader: Darkness cannot claim us!

People: **Fear cannot bind us!**

Leader: Behold his hands, side, and feet!

People: **The mercy of God is overflowing.**

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: **Christ is risen, indeed! Amen!**

*HYMN

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

UMH #312

Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!

To his throne above the skies, Alleluia!

Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluia!

Reascends his native heaven, Alleluia!

There the glorious triumph waits, Alleluia!

Lift your heads, eternal gates, Alleluia!

Christ hath conquered death and sin, Alleluia!

Take the King of glory in, Alleluia!

See! the heaven its Lord receives, Alleluia!

Yet he loves the earth he leaves, Alleluia!

Though returning to his throne, Alleluia!

Still he calls the world his own, Alleluia!

See! he lifts his hands above, Alleluia!

See! he shows the prints of love, Alleluia!

Hark! his gracious lips bestow, Alleluia!

Blessings on his church below, Alleluia!

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739

Music: Robert Williams (1817); Harm. David Evans 1927

*AFFIRMATION OF EASTER In Unison:

adapted from a writing by Amy Payne

In many ways Easter seems so long ago.

But even today

we can still rise in the darkness,

to feel the earth move, the dawn break,

and, if we listen,

the promise of God's love.

Whether on the lips of angels,

or in the everyday journey,

God's word will always be with us.

The tomb is empty.

Death is not victorious!

Jesus is alive.

Jesus is with us.

Thanks be to God in the RISEN LORD.

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NRSV)

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

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

Depth of Mercy

#355 UMH, vs 4

There for me the Savior stands,
shows his wounds and spreads his hands.

God is love! I know, I feel;

Jesus weeps and loves me still.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1740

Music: adapt. From Orlando Gibbons, 1623

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CONFESSONAL PRAYER

written by Moira Laidlaw

Lord Jesus Christ, when our words and actions reflect a reluctance to confess you publicly as Lord of our lives:

Forgive us.

When we fear that humbling ourselves would be seen by others as weakness, some kind of defect in our character:

Forgive us.

When we have betrayed your love for us through our lack of love for you, for others, and for ourselves:

Forgive us.

When we find ourselves glossing over the events of your passion and death because we look forward to Easter as a time to enjoy holidays and have fun.

Forgive us.

Lord Jesus Christ, fix your mind in us; remake us in your likeness; empty us of all that hinders us from following you to where pain and suffering, exploitation and injustice exist.

Gracious and loving God, empower us with the Holy Spirit so that our lives continually glorify you and our tongues forever confess Jesus as Lord.

As we come to the cross, hear us as we pray as you taught 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.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: “Jesus said, Peace be with you. Then after he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.” (John 20:19b)

Through his obedience we are freed from every sin that would enslave us. Through the cross of Christ you are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

HYMN

Depth of Mercy
#355 UMH, vs 4

There for me the Savior stands,
shows his wounds and spreads his hands.

God is love! I know, I feel;
Jesus weeps and loves me still.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1740
Music: adapt. From Orlando Gibbons, 1623

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

John 20:19-31 (NRSV)

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

“Peace”
BE WITH YOU!

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³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks Be to God.

MESSAGE

Locked Doors
Rev. David W. Brown

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

adapted from a writing by Roddy Hamilton

To the church of God, to all those whom Christ Jesus has made holy, who are called to be God's men and women, to all true believers in Jesus Christ—grace and peace to you from God the Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. Christ existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in heaven and on earth.

And through Christ, God reconciled everything making peace ... by means of his blood on the cross.

Though Jesus Christ was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

So, brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Stand firm. Gather at the Table of the Lord,
to break bread,
to drink the cup,
to trust love,
and tell the world we choose to follow the Risen Jesus.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Jesus on the night he would be betrayed, gathered his disciples together in an upper room to celebrate the Passover feast: As he took the bread, he blessed it and gave it to them saying; "This is my body broken for you." Also, in the meal he raised a cup, blessed it, and gave it to them saying; "Drink from this all of you, this is my blood shed for you."

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, and with the unity of the Holy Spirit, we offer all honor, glory and praise for the gift of this meal. Amen.

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

*HYMN

Christ is Risen
#307 UMH

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!
Celebrate this day of days.
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder;
all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding,
see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding
bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen!
Raise your spirits
from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning.
See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection,
not a servant, but a friend;
Jesus is our strong companion.
Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen!
Earth and heaven
nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation
where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:
"Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First
and Last is with us.
Sing Hosanna everyone!

Text: Brian Wren (1984)
Music: Edith M. G. Reed (1926), Harm.: Austin C. Lovelace (1964)
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BENEDICTION

posted on the Third Space website

May the loving power of God,
which raised Jesus to new life,
strengthen you in hope,
enrich you with his love,
and fill you with joy in the faith.

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

Liturgist at 8:20 –

Liturgist at 9:40 – Jane Florer



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

REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE



ONLINE GIVING



*Stand as you are able

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.

The banner features a light blue background with a string of red and white lanterns at the top. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold, sans-serif and elegant, cursive fonts. The event details, including the date, time, and location, are clearly displayed.

ALL KINDS OF SPRINGTIME FUN FOR EVERYONE!

Lunch starts at 11:15am

Chimes with Chester – Games – Bouncy House – Cotton Candy Machine

Sponsored by ArmstrongKids



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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Monthly Luncheon

APRIL 10

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

National Exemplar
6880 Wooster Pike

RSVP to Dianna Sheely



Craving Pancakes and Fellowship?

Saturday BREAKFAST



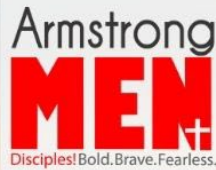
April 20

in the Fellowship Hall
8:00 am - 9:30 am

Young Couples' Dinner Nights!

Friday Nights – 5/10, 6/14, 7/12, 8/9

Gather for dinner, fellowship, and discipleship on Friday evenings from 5:30-7:00pm in the Atrium! All young(ish) couples are welcome. Come and enjoy summer cookouts — hotdogs, hamburgers, or chicken will be provided — *bring a side dish or dessert to share*. RSVP to Sara O'Connor at soconnor@armstrongchapel.org. Childcare is available by RSVP.



SUPERCharge Event

UTOPIA

Community Partners
A Child's Hope Int'l
Our goal is to pack 50,000 meals

April 27

in the Worship Center
8:30 am - 1:00 pm
FREE EVENT

A CONFERENCE FOR MEN BUILDING FAITH

Movie, Fellowship, Lunch, and more!

*All ages are welcome to share
in this inspirational day!*

For more information visit our website
www.armstrongchapel.org

Direct link to register: <https://bit.ly/4ajgTx3>



Women
UNITED
at Armstrong Chapel

Springouting

Tunes & Blooms

Thursday, April 25
6:00 pm

Free concert \$10.00 Parking
RSVP to Dianna Sheely



Cincinnati Zoo

Why tip-toe
through the
tulips when you
can rock the
garden?

SAVE THE DATE

5th Annual

GOLF SCRAMBLE

**FRIDAY
JULY 12**

Shotgun start at 9:00 am
HAMILTON ELKS GOLF CLUB
Lunch Provided

Share in a day of friends, fun and
friendly competition on the green!

MALE, FEMALE, AND COED TEAMS ARE WELCOME

For complete details, registration, and
sponsorship, visit: armstrongchapel.org/men/