

Asbury United Methodist Church

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FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Worship Leader: Marian Styles-McClintock
* Please rise in body or in spirit

Chancel: Deb Bush

“Take Up” *Lent 2*

GATHERING UP

Music for Centering

Prelude “This Is My Father’s World” Hanna Noh

Welcome and Asbury Mission Statement

We are Asbury! Abundantly thankful to God; Saved by Christ’s resurrection; Blessed by God; United by Christ’s love for each of us; Reaching out to our church family and our community; Yearning to tell the Good News to all by being Christ’s voice, hands, and feet in the world.

Announcements

We Acknowledge What’s Up

Confession/Assurance

“You Raise Me Up”

Leader: Jesus was very clear that following him might not be a smooth ride. He was bound to choose the just way, not the easy way, through life. To take up the cross was to lose one’s life — to let go of certain expectations of safety and acceptance in order to stand for the Gospel message of love. How are we to take up the causes of Jesus — justice, righteousness, and mercy in our day?

**When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary
When troubles come and my heart burdened be
Then, I am still and wait here in the silence
Until You come and sit awhile with me**

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains

**You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas
I am strong, when I am on Your shoulders
You raise me up to more than I can be**

Leader:

Let us pray together:

**Motivating and Invigorating God,
you challenge us to walk a difficult path.
Show us, as Jesus did,
that letting go of our own security and comfort
is the only way to create space
for your justice to move over the earth.
In this moment of quiet, we lift up to you
those things we'd like to give up for good...
for the sake of The Good.**

Meditative Moment

Leader: Hear assurance in what the Psalmist proclaims:

You who fear the Lord, praise God! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify God; stand in awe of God, all you offspring of Israel! For God did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; God did not hide God's face from me but heard when I cried out. From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear God. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek God shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever! (*Psalm 22, excerpts*)

In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.
**In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God, Amen!**

I invite you to stand as you are comfortable.

**You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas
I am strong, when I am on Your shoulders
You raise me up to more than I can be**

The Peace

As a people forgiven and freed,
we reach out to lift others up, offering the peace of Christ.
Peace be with you!
And also with you!

You are invited to share the Peace with those around you [remembering to send your peace through the camera to those worshipping remotely].

Opening Hymn/Song

Deep River, Marian Anderson

FILLING UP

Scripture

Psalm 19

L: The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and the firmament^[a] proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

yet their voice^[a] goes out through all the earth
and their words to the end of the world.

**P: In the heavens^[a] he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.**

**Its rising is from the end of the heavens
and its circuit to the end of them,
and nothing is hid from its heat.**

**The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;**

**the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;**

**the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;**

**the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes;**

**the fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever;**

**the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.**

**More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;**

**sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

L: Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect one's own errors?

Clear me from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from the insolent;^[a]
do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless
and innocent of great transgression.

P: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Music for Soaring (Choir)
“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

The Word Uplifts

Scripture
Psalm 95

Psalm 95

- ¹ Come, let us sing to the Lord!
Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.
- ² Let us come to him with thanksgiving.
Let us sing psalms of praise to him.
- ³ For the Lord is a great God,
a great King above all gods.
- ⁴ He holds in his hands the depths of the earth
and the mightiest mountains.
- ⁵ The sea belongs to him, for he made it.
His hands formed the dry land, too.
- ⁶ Come, let us worship and bow down.
Let us kneel before the Lord our maker,
- ⁷ for he is our God.
We are the people he watches over,
the flock under his care.
If only you would listen to his voice today!
- ⁸ The Lord says, “Don’t harden your hearts as Israel did at Meribah,
as they did at Massah in the wilderness.
- ⁹ For there your ancestors tested and tried my patience,
even though they saw everything I did.
- ¹⁰ For forty years I was angry with them, and I said,
‘They are a people whose hearts turn away from me.
They refuse to do what I tell them.’
- ¹¹ So in my anger I took an oath:
‘They will never enter my place of rest.’”

Song of Illumination

UMH#454 Open My Eyes, That I May See vs1

Open my eyes that I may see / glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Sermon

“Reflection on American Contralto, Marian Anderson”
Marian Styles-McClintock

Hymn UMH 345 I surrender All

BUILDING UP

Up to Something Good

Prayers of the People

“Let My Prayer Rise Up”

Leader: As we begin our time of prayer today, I want to let you know that, if you don't have one already, we have devotional journals available for you to use at home each day for a brief time of reflecting. I hope that carving out a regular moment to stop and offer your intentions to God is a Lent practice that is uplifting for you — connecting you to a moment each day with the Source of Goodness.

If you like incense, or candles, we encourage you to light them at home each day when you spend time in reflection and prayer. This connects our practice to an ancient practice mentioned by the Psalmist in chapter 141: *“I call upon you, O Lord; come quickly to me; give ear to my voice when I call to you. Let my prayer rise up as incense before you and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.”*

Let my prayer rise up
like incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands
as an offering to you.

**Let my prayer rise up
like incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands
as an offering to you.**

We cry out to you, O God, from the wreckage of a world wracked with sorrows. Our hands are often idle in the face of injustice, though we know you call us to take action. Even when we feel so small and are tempted to believe that we cannot make a difference, we pray that we can be “up to something good” for ourselves, our neighborhoods, and our world. And so this week we start with thanksgiving for these acts of uplifting goodness:

Sharing Joy

**Let my prayer rise up
like incense before you,**

**the lifting up of my hands
as an offering to you.**

Sharing Concerns

We call upon you, O God, to incline your ear and extend your love and healing power for these laments:

**Let my prayer rise up
like incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands
as an offering to you.**

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Yohan Go

We call upon you, O God, to give us the strength and courage to be up to something good for the sake of The Good. In this moment — in our mind's eye — we imagine and offer our commitment to one small thing this week that will lift someone up, elevate and affirm the good when we see it, and bring a bit more justice and joy where we are. And if we find we are not up to it, we pray we can accept the goodness of others and feel your encouraging love.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

Lord's Prayer

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, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

**Let my prayer rise up
like incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands
as an offering to you.**

Uplifting Messages of Support *Offering/Offertory*

Offertory Music “Steal Away” performed by cappella Marian Styles-McClintock

Doxology

“What R U Up 2 for My Sake?”

**What are you up to for my sake?
What are you up to “for the Good?”**

Would you come now, follow, join up?

**Let us take up, wake up anew,
Let us build up, fill up with you!**

**Let us lift up
the gifts we raise up.
For the sake of,
for the shape of,
heaven on earth.**

Offertory Prayer

Spirit of Life, we offer these gifts
not as reluctant sacrifices but as wholehearted tokens of gratitude
for all you are doing in this community and in our lives.
May our offerings help further God's goodness and mercy, here and everywhere.
And the people say, **Amen.**

LIVING IT UP

Closing Hymn/Song

'O Happy Day' Concert 1 Edward Hawkins Singers

Blessing for the Journey

And so now pick up where you left off
on the path that God has set before you,
leaving behind your certainty and the need for everything to be "just so,"
trusting your decision to follow the One who taught us the way of love,
knowing that you have all you need to be up to something.

When someone asks you, "What are you up to?"
you can respond,
"With God's help, I'm up to something good!"

Let the people say, Amen!
Amen!

Music for Movin' on Up

Postlude "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" Hanna Noh

Announcements

1. Lenten book study: "The Third Day: Living the Resurrection" by Tom Berlin and Mark A. Miler. Tuesday Group: Starting on February 27th at 10 a.m. in the pastor's office.
2. "Please join the gospel reading throughout the Lenten season: Matthew, Mark, and John. You can pick up the reading schedule at the narthex."
3. We are collecting Teddy Bears for our teddy bear ministry. Are you having a bad day and need some comfort, take a teddy bear and bring one back to share with someone else. Our teddy bears are all over the world!
4. Sunday, March 3rd Worship Leader – Patricia Smith-Disu

Birthdays

25th Buddy Ford & Benjamin Sunoskie

26th Erin Rose

27th Laura Quist

28th Mary Drury

Flowers

The flowers on the altar this week are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Karen Bishop George by her loving Family.