

# *Asbury United Methodist Church*

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**MARCH 17, 2024**

Worship Leader: Marian Styles-McClintock

Chancel: Donna Rowe

\* Please rise in body or in spirit

## **“Lift Up”**

*Lent 5*

### **GATHERING UP**

#### **Music for Centering**

*Prelude “Love Lifted Me” 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:* “When nothing else would help, love lifted me!” says the old Gospel song. To be lifted up is to be drawn into the love of God. Jesus drew all kinds of people to him during his short tenure on earth, drawing no boundaries for who was invited into that love. As his hour to die drew nearer, he spread the message that all things would be enveloped in his love even after he was gone. What uplifting message will we pass on to others?

**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:

**Radically inclusive God, you offer each one of us  
a life-changing love that leaves no one out.  
Sometimes our hearts feel so heavy  
that we struggle to rise up and claim it.  
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: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me... Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. (*Psalm 51, 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 worshiping remotely].

### **Opening Hymn/Song**

*"Here I Am to Worship" W&S 3177 vs. 1x2*

## **FILLING UP**

### **Psalm 51:1-12**

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. 5 Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. 6

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

## **Music for Soaring (Choir)**

*"Amazing Grace, Eternal Life"*

## **The Word Uplifts**

*Scripture*

John 12: 20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: 'Abba, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Abba, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

**Sermon Lift Up!**

Rev. Yohan Go

## **BUILDING UP**

### **Up to Something Good**

*Prayers of the People*

*"Let My Prayer Rise Up"*

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.**

*Leader:* We seek your vision, O God, to restore our sight so that we may see all people and all things as connected to you and forever redeemed by your love. We ask for you to make your presence known among us and to lift our spirits high with your hope and joy, and we pray that we can be “up to something good” for our selves, 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 calm or 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**

*“special music” Cuatro, performed by Carlos Capacho*

## **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** Rev. Yohan Go

Spirit of Encouragement, we ask you to glorify and grow these gifts up from seeds of potential into the fuel needed to raise up our community, lifting the spirits of all to new heights offering life-giving hope where needed most.

## **LIVING IT UP**

### **Closing Hymn/Song**

*“To God Be the Glory” UMH 98 vs. 1,3*

### **Blessing for the Journey**

And so now go forth with no limits on love,  
imagining a mighty Spirit wind beneath your wings  
that will raise you up to new heights  
and give you the assurance  
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 "He Is Exalted" Hanna Noh*

**Announcements**

1. Don't forget to order your **Easter flowers**.
2. **Teddy bear ministry** has started collecting teddy bears for our ministry.
3. **Lakewood Baptist Church** will host a **fundraising concert** for local foodbank on March 24 at 6:30 P.M.

**4. Holy Week Worship information**

**Palm Sunday (24th)** at 9:30 a.m. at Asbury

**Maundy Thursday Service (28th):** Fellowship dinner at 6:00 p.m. Worship at 7:00 p.m at Zion KUMC

**Good Friday Worship Service (29th)** at 7:00 p.m. at Asbury

**Easter Service (31st)** at 9:30 a.m. at Asbury.

5. Most of you have noticed **the bright blue food pantry** on the front lawn. This is an Eagle Scout Service Project. Please do not leave ANY items in the pantry at this time. Canned goods and game donations for the pantry is on hold until signage is up. Trevor is working on signs and has repaired the front door. When donations do start canned goods and small games will be the only donations allowed.

6. We are looking for a **leadership team for a Spring Fundraiser**. If you would like to help or share an idea, contact Andrea Dunn!

7. **Worship Leader March 24<sup>th</sup>** - Alice Pace

**8. World Down Syndrome Day is 3/21.**

Down Syndrome occurs when there are 3 instead of 2 copies of the 21<sup>st</sup> chromosome in each cell body.

3/21 aims to promote awareness and understanding of Down syndrome and to recognize the dignity, rights, potential and wellbeing of persons with Down syndrome.

**March Birthdays**

18<sup>th</sup> Tyler Perry

22<sup>nd</sup> LaDonna Pratt

**Flowers**      *The flowers on the altar this week are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dorothy MacDonald by her daughter Marilyn Blanche and Family.*