

Asbury United Methodist Church

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MARCH 3, 2024

Worship Leader: Patricia Smith-Disu
* Please rise in body or in spirit

Chancel: Kerri Dorsey

“Raise Up” *Lent 3*

GATHERING UP

Music for Centering

Prelude “You Are My All in All” 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: The story of Jesus’ response to the temple being made into a marketplace was profound and may have been another step toward his ultimate demise on the cross. He refers to raising up a new temple in three days — something his disciples later remembered as a foretelling of his resurrection. How might we raise up as the Body of Christ and be a holy temple — a holy dwelling place of God — in the world?

**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:
**God of restoration and rebuilding,
we are here today seeking resurrection and renewal
for our tired and worn-out bodies
and the body of this community.
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:

The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims God's 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 goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world. . . . 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. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. (*Psalm 19, 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

FILLING UP

Psalm 19

19:1 The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. 2 Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. 3 There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; 4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, 5 which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. 6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat. 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; 8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; 9 the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. 12 But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults. 13 Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. 14 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)

"Rivers of Delight"

The Word Uplifts

Scripture

John 2: 13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, with the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body.

After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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
"Raise Up!" Rev. Yohan Go

BUILDING UP

Up to Something Good
Communion and Prayers of the People

"Let My Prayer Rise Up"

Leader: Psalm 141 is our inspiration for our prayer time in this Lent series as we sing "let my prayers rise up like incense before you." Prayers in the Temple were offered as the smoke of incense rose up and up... a symbol of taking the prayers to God. We believe that God is here, among us, within us, around us, as well as above us — for the Spirit of God is everywhere. But this season we especially honor this idea that we ourselves are uplifted and upheld by the presence of the Divine One, our spirits rising like the prayers of all through the ages.

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

We listen for your voice, O God, in the story of Jesus turning over tables in the temple. Sometimes we have to break down what is no longer working and start again with a new foundation. As we consider what tables we are ready to turn in our own lives, 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. Amen.

Communion - Michelle Dorsey

Invitation to the Table

The table of our Lord is open to all. You do not have to qualify by virtue of righteousness to come to the Lord's table. This holy meal is prepared for your nourishment in remembrance of Jesus Christ, who offered his whole life that we might become people of hope and peace.

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and holy thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Creator of all things.

You formed us in your image
and filled us up with your breath of life.

When we turned away, deflated and down,
your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,
ignited us again with the warmth of your love,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.

**Holy, holy, God,
come close to, and save us.**

**We cry to you this night
for the lifting of all souls.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ.

At his baptism, your Spirit anointed him
to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.

He lifted the lowly at every turn,
choosing love and healing before all else.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus went up to his place on high,
and into the depths of this Body of Christ,
he promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.”

And so,
in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ’s offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ our Lord has died;
and Christ is now risen.
Our lifted hearts proclaim,
“Christ will come to us again.”**

I invite you to raise your hands in the ancient Christian posture of prayer.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
so that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

Amen.

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.

Taking Bread and Cup

Prayer

Uplifting Messages of Support

Offering/Offertory

Offertory Music

"He Lift Me" by Tim O'Brien (Guitar Ned, Vocal: Alice)

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

Revolutionary God, we share this portion of our resources today
not as those looking to turn a profit or to amass wealth,
but as stewards of your gifts — along with our time, talents, and unique passions —
charged with the responsibility and the desire to put them to use in your name.

LIVING IT UP

Closing Hymn/Song

UMH #559 "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" vs. 1,2,4

Blessing for the Journey

And so now go from this holy dwelling place,
ready to encourage and raise your neighbors up
from a foundation built on grace,
holding fast to the vision for God's kin-dom on earth,
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 "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" Hanna Noh

Announcements

1. Daylight Saving time starts next Sunday.
2. Don't forget to order Easter flowers

3. Lakewood Baptist Church will host a fundraising concert for local foodbank on March 24 at 6:30 P.M.
4. Teddy bear ministry has started collecting teddy bears for our ministry.

March Birthdays

3rd Linna Buono

4th Jim Pratt

6th Sue Gibbs & Cary Weigner

7th Dixon Disu & Tiffany Lucini

8th Olivia Disu & David Dorsey

9th Cheryl Anderson & Bob Cameron

Flowers The flowers on the altar this week are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Joseph and Ruth Grantmeyer from their loving daughter Caren.