

*Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.*

**“Raise Up” Third Sunday in Lent**

**March 3, 2024**

*The asterisk (\*) indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

## **Lifting Up Our Hearts**

*Gracious God, whose power is made perfect in weakness, whose wisdom appears as foolishness in this world, we thank you for the scandal of the cross. In Jesus Christ, you overturn all our usual ways of behaving and believing. You scatter our false notions of discipleship as easily as coins are spilled from a box. You correct our notions of piety and order with fierce passion. Do not let your church become content or contained as an institution. Raze to ruins what is distorted in us, and raise us to new life as a community so that we may be the body of Christ in and for the world. With fear and joy we ask this in Christ’s name. Amen.*

## **Gathering Music**

### **Gathering Up**

**Music for Centering**

“St. Denio Variations”

arr. John Lloyd, 1999

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## **Entering God’s Presence**

“We Sing the Goodness of the Lord”

G. W. Fink, 1783-1846

We sing the goodness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food.

God formed the creatures with a word and then pronounced them good.

Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where ever we turn our eyes;

If we survey the ground we tread, or gaze upon the skies!

## **\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Come with us on this Lenten Journey up to the Temple.

**People: The temple is the great House of the Lord.**

Leader: But sometimes even greed and selfishness can enter the Temple.

**People: Be with us, Lord, as we enter this step.**

Leader: The Lord will be asking us to recognize our selfishness.

**People: Lord, hear our cries. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

#366

**We Acknowledge What’s Up**

**\*Call to Confession**

**People: 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**

Words and Music by Brendan Graham and Rolf Lovland  
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**\*Prayer of Confession**

**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. Amen.  
(Silent prayer of confession.)**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

**Leader: In the name of Christ, we are forgiven.**

**People: In the name of Christ, we are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen!**

**\*Response Hymn**

“Change My Heart, O God”

#695

**The Word Uplifts**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**What’s Up? with Children**

**Scripture Reading**

John 2:13-22

## **Music For Soaring**

“A Prayer”

Griffith Hugh Jones, 1890

Come, gracious Lord, descend and dwell,  
By faith and love, in every breast;  
Then shall we know, and taste and feel  
The joys that cannot be expressed.  
Come, fill our hearts with inward strength,  
Make our enlarged souls possess,  
And learn the height, and breadth and length  
Of thine eternal love and grace.

## **Sermon**

“Raise Up”

Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

### **Building Up**

#### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**


**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

#### **\*Invitation to Offering**

## \*Response

## “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 a -  
new; 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.

Words: Dr. Marcia McFee  
Used by permission from Worship Design Studio.

## \*Prayer of Dedication

### The Sacrament of Holy Communion

(We will be receiving communion by coming forward to one of the two stations on each side of the communion table. Please exit the pews to the center aisle and return to the pews from the outside aisles. An elder or deacon will be available to serve communion to those who wish to remain seated. Gluten-free bread can be found on the communion table.)

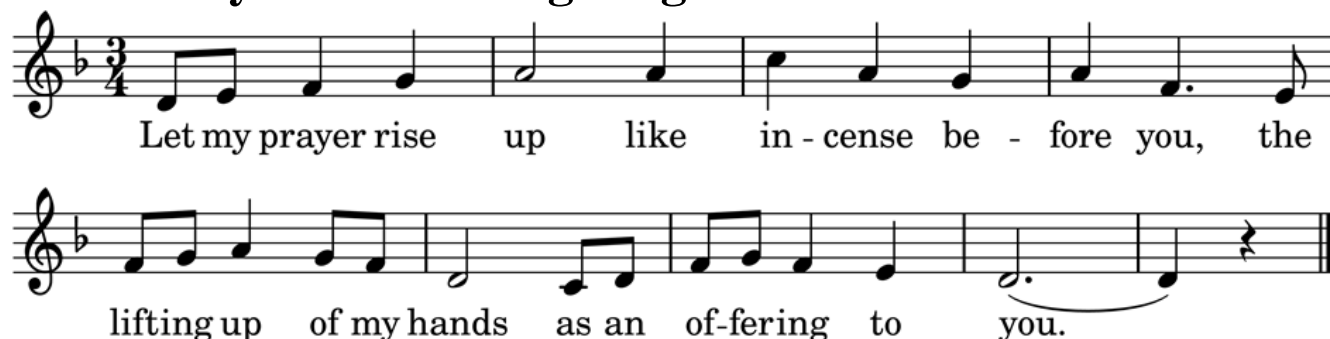
## \*Invitation to the Lord’s Table

## \*Hymn of Invitation

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

#526

## The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving



Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be-fore you, the  
lifting up of my hands as an of-fering to you.

Text: Psalm 141; Marty Haugen  
Music: *Holden Evening Prayer*, Marty Haugen  
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Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right ... and spoke to us through your prophets.

**People: Holy, holy, God, come close to, and save us. We cry to you this night for the lifting of all souls.**

Pastor: Holy are you ... as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Pastor: I invite you to raise your hands ... God, now and forever. Amen.

### **The 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

### **Communion of the People**

### **Prayer after Communion**

**Generous Lord, in word and feast we have proclaimed the mystery of your love: help us so to live out our days that we may be signs of your wonders in the world. Through Jesus Christ our Savior we pray. Amen.**

### **Living It Up**

**\*Closing Hymn "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"**

#761

**\*Blessing for the Journey**

## \*Congregational Response

“On Eagle’s Wings” (refrain)

#43

## \*Music For Movin On Up

“Awake! Arise!”

arr. Harry Clarke, 1888-1957

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**Pastors:** Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood  
Steve Watters

**Music Director:** Thomas Lloyd

**Organist:** Thomas Lloyd

**Liturgist:** Joyce Lloyd

**ABOUT THIS MORNING’S MUSIC:** In celebration of St. David’s Day (March 1st) the choral music, prelude, postlude, and communion music are all Welsh Hymns. The Introit includes the dedication to “St. David, Patron of Wales.”

*Joyce Lloyd and her husband, Tom, moved from Pittsburgh, PA, to London, OH, in 1974. They had just graduated from college and were newlyweds. Joyce and Tom were anxious to start their new life together and to start new jobs. London turned out to be a very welcoming town. They were able to find new friends and a new church family.*

*Joyce has a twin sister, an older sister, and an older brother, who live across the US, giving them a chance to visit some beautiful cities. Joyce is fortunate to have her brother-in-law, John, and sister-in-law, Margaret, living nearby.*

*Retirement is the best job Joyce has ever had, allowing her to enjoy more time with Tom, their dog, Sasha, and their cat, Meow Mix. Even in retirement there never seems to be enough time to be involved in as many volunteer projects as she would like. Joyce enjoys her time with friends, and being outside walking the dog or working in the yard. Goal in life: “Make me an instrument of your peace.”*