

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

“Take Up” Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024

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

Lighting Up Our Hearts

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may take up our cross and worthily magnify your holy name through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Gathering Music

Gathering Up

Music for Center “My Song Is Love Unknown” arr. Michael Burkhardt

Welcome and Announcements

Entering God’s Presence

“Almighty God, You Sent Your Son”

Mark Steffens, 1979

Almighty God, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ,
To take our flesh upon Him and to suffer death on the cross.
Grant that we may share in his obedience to your will
And in the glorious victory of his resurrection;
Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

People: my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

Leader: The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

People: those who seek him shall praise the LORD!

Leader: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

People: and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

Leader: For dominion belongs to the LORD,

People: and he rules over the nations.

ALL: Posterity will serve him: future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

***Hymn**

“The God of Abraham Praise”

#49

We Acknowledge What’s Up

***Call to Confession**

Leader: Lent is often known ... Josh Groban singing “You Raise Me Up”.

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**

Almighty Father; we enter your presence confessing the things we try to conceal from you and the things we try to conceal from others. We confess the heartbreak, worry, and sorrow we have caused, that make it difficult for others to forgive us, the times we have made it easy for others to do wrong, the harm we have done that makes it hard for us to forgive ourselves. Lord have mercy and forgive us through Christ. Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn**

“Change My Heart, O God”

#695

The Word Uplifts

Prayer for Illumination

What's Up? with Children

First Scripture Reading

Mark 8:31-38

Music For Soaring

“Our Lord and King”

Richard Gieseke, 1979

Our Lord and King, like the crowds which surrounded Jesus,
We often praise you with our lips only to reject you with our hearts.
Root out of our lives all disloyalty and unfaithfulness,
And by the way of his cross lead us to confession of our sins
And commitment to your purposes:
Through you Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Second Scripture Reading

Romans 4:13-25

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Take up your Cross of Hope!”

Pastor Steve Watters

Building Up

***Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

***Hymn**

“Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”

#718

“Let My Prayers Rise Up”

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Text: Psalm 141; Marty Haugen
Music: *Holden Evening Prayer*, Marty Haugen
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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.

Uplifting Messages of Support

*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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in 3/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F#, C#). The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Words: Dr. Marcia McFee
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*Prayer of Dedication

Living It Up

***Closing Hymn** “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” #182

***Blessings for the Journey**

***Congregational Response** “On Eagle’s Wings” (refrain) #43

***Music For Movin On Up**

“The Lord Is My Light”

arr. Anna Laura Page

Pastors: Steven A. Watters
 Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Liturgist: Kelly Armfelt

Kelly Armfelt is a member of the Generation to Generation Commission, Chancel Choir and Sunday School teacher at FPC. She loves teaching and learning alongside her kindergarten crew at Bailey Elementary in the Dublin City School District. Kelly also volunteers each week at H.E.L.P. House Community Outreach and the London Public Library. Her favorite pastimes include being Mimi to Cooper (4) and Mila (2), harassing the tenors and basses in the back row of the choir loft, bicycling and getting lost, and making Tom Lloyd laugh!