

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

“Lift Up” 5th Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024

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

Lifting Up Our Hearts

To be lifted is to be drawn into the love of God. Jesus help us not to draw any boundaries of who might enter into your kingdom of love. As we anticipate the hours Jesus was lifted on the Cross may we remember those he invited into his paradise kingdom, may we also be lifted in making the right choices in our lives. Amen.

Gathering Music

Gathering Up

Music for Centering

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

arr. Anna Laura Page

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

One Great Hour of Sharing

Deb Blaho

Entering God’s Presence

“For the Troubles and the Sufferings”

Rodolfo Neto, 1988

For the troubles and the sufferings of the world,
God, we call upon your mercy;
The whole creation’s laboring in pain!
Lend an ear to the rising cry for help
From oppressed and hopeless people:
Come! Hasten your salvation, healing, love!
We pray for peace, the blessed peace
That comes from making justice,
To cover and embrace us. Have mercy, Lord!
We pray for power, the power that will
Sustain your people’s witness:
Until your Kingdom come,
Kyrie eleison! (*Lord have mercy upon us.*)

***Call to Worship**

Leader: To be lifted up is to be drawn to the Love of God.

People: We draw no boundaries, we are Christ followers who up lift!

Leader: O God you offer each one of us a life changing love,

People: that leaves no one out!

Leader: Sometimes I wonder about acceptance so much,

People: that I struggle to rise up and claim your love for me!

Leader: In this quiet moment of worship,

People: Lift me up Lord in body and spirit as I worship you!

***Hymn**

“We Lift Our Voices”

#710

We Acknowledge What's Up

***Call to Confession**

Leader: When nothing else would help ... “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**

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. Amen!

Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Through the grace of Christ Jesus, we pray.

People: Thanks be 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 12:20-33

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Music For Soaring

“O Lamb of God Most Holy”

Sandra Gay, 2005

O Lamb of God most holy who on the cross did suffer

So patient still and lowly yourself to scorn did offer.

Our sins by you were taken or hope had us forsaken;

Have mercy on us, Jesus!

When I survey the wondrous cross,

On which the Prince of Glory died,

My richest gain I count but loss

And pour contempt on all my pride.

Your peace be with us Jesus.

Sermon

“Lift up!”

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**

“Together We Serve”

#767

“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 - fer - ing to you.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written 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 3/2 time, key of D major. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Words: Dr. Marcia McFee
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*Prayer of Dedication

Living It Up

*Closing Hymn “Lord to You My Soul Is Lifted” #420

*Blessing for the Journey

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

*Music For Movin’ On Up

“Sent Forth by God's Blessing”

arr. David N. Johnson

Pastors: Steven A. Watters

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Liturgist: Joyce Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

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.”