

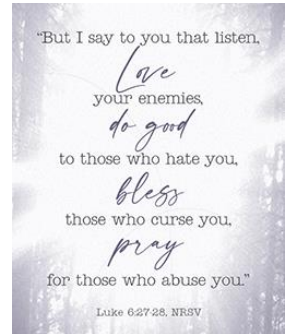
February 20, 2022
Sanctuary Worship, 11:00AM

Welcome to worship today!

Please remember to follow the directions of our ushers and wear appropriate facemasks at all times inside the building.

Prelude

We invite you to enjoy the prelude as a time of quiet reflection, and to individually prepare your hearts for the worship of God.



Call to Worship

Leader: As we come to worship, let us leave at the door our self-centered thoughts.

People: **And open our eyes to see our neighbor in worship.**

Leader: As we come to worship, let us leave at the door our feelings of exclusiveness.

People: **And open our minds to the possibilities of inclusion.**

Leader: As we come to worship, let us leave outside our notion of generosity.

People: **And open our hearts to the possibility of giving beyond our typical gift.**

All: As we come to worship, let us open our eyes, our minds and our hearts to what can be instead of what is. For all of our gifts and for all possibilities, let us lift our voices in praise!

Hymn – Hope of the World

Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion,
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.

Save us, thy people, from consuming passion,
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.

Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
still let thy spirit unto us be given, to heal earth's wounds and end all bitter strife.

Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
showing to wandering souls the path of light,
walk thou beside us lest the tempting byways lure us away from thee to endless night.

Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us
from death and dark despair, from sin and guilt,

we render back the love thy mercy gave us;
take thou our lives, and use them as thou wilt.

Hope of the world, O Christ o'er death victorious,
who by this sign didst conquer grief and pain,
We would be faithful to thy gospel glorious; thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign.
*UMH 178. Georgia Harkness, V. Earle Copps. Words ©1954; renewed 1982 The Hymn Society of America;
Music ©1963 Abingdon Press.*

Prayer Time & Lord's Prayer

(To share your joys and concerns, please text them to Elias at 252-578-1090.)

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Choir Anthem – *Be Kind to One Another*

Be kind to one another. Be kind and show compassion.
Be kind and love each other as Christ the Lord loves you.
Be kind to one another as Christ is kind to you.
Forgive and love each other as Christ the Lord loves you.
Rejoice with one another. Praise loud the name of Jesus.
Sing out your glad hosannas! Sing praise forevermore!
And when we stand in glory, having told the ageless story,
We will sing our alleluias to God forevermore.

Rev. Walter Harms; David Angerman. © 1998 Harold Flammer Music.

Scripture Lesson – Luke 6: 27-38

“But I say to you who are willing to hear: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on the cheek, offer the other one as well. If someone takes your coat, don't withhold your shirt either. Give to everyone who asks and don't demand your things back from those who take them. Treat people in the same way that you want them to treat you. “If you love those who love you, why should you be commended? Even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, why should you be commended? Even sinners do that. If you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, why should you be commended? Even sinners lend to sinners expecting to

be paid back in full. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend expecting nothing in return. If you do, you will have a great reward. You will be acting the way children of the Most High act, for he is kind to ungrateful and wicked people. Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate.

“Don’t judge, and you won’t be judged. Don’t condemn, and you won’t be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good portion—packed down, firmly shaken, and overflowing—will fall into your lap. The portion you give will determine the portion you receive in return.”

Message – Now That’s Going Too Far

Prayer

Jesus, we claim to be your followers and we say that we are your disciples. Are we really living as you would have us live? Give us boldness to share your truth. Give us hearts that are willing to turn from our own desires to follow yours. Give us courage to love our enemies. Give us faith that triumphs doubt. If we are truly your followers, truly your disciples, please show us what that really means and let us not be afraid to live it out. Amen.

Hymn – *O God of Every Nation*

O God of every nation, of every race and land,
redeem your whole creation with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us, and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us, and heal our strife-torn world.

From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.

Lord, strengthen all who labor that all may find release
from fear of rattling saber, from dread of war’s increase;
when hope and courage falter, Lord, let your voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter, your servants undergird.

Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign,
and Christ shall rule victorious o’er all the world’s domain.

UMH 435. William W. Reid, Jr., Welsh hymn melody; harm. by David Evans. Words ©1958, renewed 1986
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Blessing & Sending Out

Forward to Share Our Offerings

Out to Share Peace with Our World

What to know this week ...

Remember our *new Sunday worship schedule:*

9:15AM Common Thread, Parking Lot and Patio worship

10:15AM Discipleship

11:00AM Sanctuary Worship

Meetings this week:

SPRC, 4pm today in Room 12

Finance Committee, 6pm today held virtually

Mary Brown Circle, 10am Wednesday in Montague Hall

The office will be closed on Monday, February 21 for Presidents Day and reopen on Tuesday, February 22 at 9am.

Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 7:00 PM at St. Marks UMC (Raleigh)

ReFrame, ReFocus, ReTool for Resiliency: *The Covid 19 pandemic has left many of us haunted by feelings of anxiety, despair, and anger. It has cultivated a loss of trust in the world as a safe place and has even permeated our life as communities of faith. Join this opportunity for learning and conversation as we gather to understand loss and grief and gain insights on how to tolerate ambiguity and acknowledge our resiliency. District Superintendent, Chris Brady, will lead this conversation based on his background as a pastor for 23 years and his work as a clinical social worker and practicing marriage and family psychotherapist.*

New Small Group Opportunity: *Kim Lamb and Sandra Horton will offer a 10-week small group session beginning March 16 called The Colossian Way. The Colossian Way curriculum structures conversations about polarizing subjects while building community and connecting with one another in Christ's love. Framed by scripture and prayer, the program helps expose participants to various perspectives through video interviews and includes time to share personal stories in order to facilitate strengthened relationships and to help us see each other as part of the body of Christ. If you are interested in receiving more information and/or signing up, please register at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b49afaa22a75-thecolossian> or contact Kim or Sandra.*