

March 6, 2022
Sanctuary Worship, 11:00AM

Welcome to worship today!

Please remember to follow the directions of our ushers. Masks are no longer mandatory inside the building, but recommended. We will continue to use generous spacing, respect the boundaries of others, and rejoice that we may worship together!



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: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

People: As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into uncomfortable places.

Leader: In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt and temptation.

People: As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

Leader: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

People: As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

Hymn – Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.

As thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.

As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word.

And through these days of penitence, and through thy passiontide,
Yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past,
An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

UMH 269. Claudia F. Hernaman, USA folk melody, arr. by Annabel Morris Buchanan. Music ©1938,
renewed 1966 J. Fischer and Bor. Co.; harm © 1989 J. Fischer and Bro., Co.

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God, Father, Creator; who gives us steadfast love, and shares with us
our joy, Our God sustains us in our weakness, and empowers us with His strength.
We trust Him.**

We follow Jesus Christ, God's Son.

**His death is our victory, His resurrection is our hope; in Him the Word became flesh; in
Him we find forgiveness, renewal from failure, reconciliation from brokenness, and
release from despair.**

**We are saved through Him. We are guided by the Holy Spirit, God's presence in the
world.**

**That same Spirit calls us to be the Church, to celebrate love, to seek justice and resist
evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen.**

We are empowered through Him.

We are disciples, pilgrim people.

**We joyfully covenant to walk together in love, to live in fellowship, in life, in death, in
life beyond death.**

God is with us! We are not alone! Thanks be to God!

Prayer Time & 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, and the power, and the
glory, forever. Amen.**

Choir Anthem – *Children of the Heavenly Father*

Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.

God his own doth tend and nourish; in his holy courts they flourish.

From all evil things he spares them; in his mighty arms he bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.

Praise the Lord in joyful numbers, your Protector never slumbers;

at the the will of your Defender ev'ry foe then must surrender.
No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.
Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.

David Haas, vocal arr. by David Haas and Michael Joncas. © 1986 G.I.A. Publications, Inc..

Scripture Lesson

Message – by Aaron Waid

Hymn – *On Eagles Wings*

And God will raise you up on eagles wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of God's hand.

UMH 143. Michael Joncas. ©1979, 1989 North American Liturgy Resources.

Blessing & Sending Out

Forward to Share Our Offerings

Out to Share Peace with One Another and On to Serve in the World

What to know this week ...

Meetings this week: UMM, 7pm Monday in Carson Hall; Congregational Care, 6pm in the Library; Midweek Worship & Communion, 6:30pm Wednesday in north parking lot

COVID Protocols Update

1. Beginning Sunday, March 6, masks are recommended but not required inside the building.
2. We will continue to use extra spaces between worshippers, skipping rows in the Sanctuary and spacing our chairs widely in Carson Hall. We will also continue to record worshipper seating so that we are able to communicate any COVID reports to those who participate in indoor worship on a given Sunday.
3. We will continue to respect the boundaries of others, simply rejoicing that we may worship together.
4. We will continue to provide outdoor access to 9:15 worship (in cars and on the patio), along with a heater for the patio.
5. These guidelines will apply to our Education wing as well, including our preschool.

Special offering today: Please remember that we will receive our first quarter special offering March 6 and 13 for the people of Petrópolis, Brazil. Petrópolis experienced a torrential rainfall (10 inches of rain in 6 hours), triggering mudslides in the community. Please note on your checks that you are giving to the Petrópolis Central UMC.

Lent Devotions: Please pick up a copy of the March/April Upper Room so that you can join with the church in daily devotional time! Regular- and large-print copies are available at the church. A prayer calendar specific to St. James is on the website.

The UM Men invite us all to dinner Monday, March 7 at 7pm in Carson Hall! Our menu: Country style steak, mashed potatoes & gravy, butter beans and shoepeg corn, greens, deviled eggs, rolls, and soft-serve ice cream! Gene Mathews is very excited to prepare the meal for us as we gather for this first church-wide meal in two years! We will welcome Michael Ballen, Community Policing Officer for the Raleigh Police Department, along with officers assigned to our district who will talk about the needs of our community. Please call the church office to have your name added to the guest list so the men can prepare appropriately.

Wednesday Worship, 6:30PM We will worship in the North Parking lot and have communion at 6:30 each week of Lent. These 30-minute services will include music, prayer, scripture, message and communion. You are invited to remain in your cars, or to place lawn chairs on the patio!

Spaces are still open for Small Group Study: The Colossian Way study, led by Kim Lamb and Sandra Horton, begins March 16. 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.