



DOWNTOWN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



An Abundance of Hands to Hold on the Journey

Celebration of Worship

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 17, 2024

[Click Here to Listen](#)

Prelude

Time Machine

Nancy and Randall Faber

The Flight

Wayfaring Stranger (Traditional)

Andrew McAleavey, piano

Words of Welcome

Rev. Laurel Nelson

Chime

Introit

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Thomas Tallis

*"I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."*

*I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light.
Look unto me; your morn shall rise and all your day be bright."*

*I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done."*

Text: Horatius Bonar

*Call to Worship: Psalm 51

David Lee

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love;

According to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions.

You desire truth in our deepest selves, so teach our hearts wisdom.

Let us hear your joy and gladness.

Create in us clean hearts, O God; put new and right spirits within us.

Sustain in us willing spirits and restore us to the joy of your salvation. Let us worship God!

Prayer for Wholeness

Living Christ, with whom we journey to the cross, we confess that we are always looking for an easier way. We long for the fullness of life with you, but we are slow to abandon the comforts of the life we know. We seek the fruit of new life, but we are not willing to die to our egos and the ways they compel us. You call us to life in community, but we stubbornly cling to "me and mine." Yet you offer the grace of life abundant, even and especially when our best efforts fall short. Transform us, renew us, and free us from our attachment to what was, so that you might bring us into the wonder of what IS. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, hear the good news! We worship a God who forgives abundantly and remembers our sins no more. Proclaim the good news with me:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.

Scripture

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Time with Young Disciples

Music for Reflection

All I Want

American Negro Spiritual

"All I want is a little more faith in Jesus.

Arr. John W. Work

The one who loves to serve the Lord will surely get their just reward.

I'll serve the Lord while I have breath, and I will see him after death.

Tho' I may fall, I'll bless his name, and through his power I'll rise again.

All I want is a little more faith in Jesus."

Scripture

John 12:20-33

Sermon

An Abundance of Hands to Hold on the Journey

Rev. Nelson

*Hymn

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said
(*Music may be found on page 8.*)

BOURBON

^Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the people

Prayer of Jesus

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Spirit 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 Spirit, and the power, and
the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering [†]

Offertory Music

Valediction

David Conte

*"Leave me, O love which reaches but to dust,
And thou, my mind, aspire to higher things;
Grow rich in that which never taketh rust:
Whatever fades but fading pleasure brings.
Draw in thy beams, and humble all thy might
To that sweet yoke where lasting freedoms be,
Which breaks the clouds and opens forth the light
That doth both shine and give us sight to see.
O, take fast hold; let that light be thy guide
In this small course which birth draws out to death,
And think how evil becometh him to slide
Who seeketh heaven, and comes of heavenly breath.
Then farewell, world! thy uttermost I see:
Eternal Love, maintain thy life in me."*

Text: Sir Philip Sidney (1554-1586)

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Let songs rise up from earth below;
Let stars and galaxies enthrone;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One! Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, it is our joy to return the gifts of our lives to you. May our offering this morning return your abundance to your world, and may we continue to work tirelessly for the well-being of your whole creation. Amen.

*Hymn

Spirit, Open My Heart
(Music may be found on page 9.)

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

* Charge and Benediction

May we forth on our Lenten journey, knowing that we do not go alone. May we embrace courage as we walk toward the cross, holding the many hands that reach out to help us. May we remember that the Word of Life has been planted within our hearts, and God has promised that it will bear much fruit.

And as you go, may God's glory inspire you, Christ's cross challenge you, and the Spirit's creativity pursue you, now and forevermore. Amen.

Postlude

Malagueña
Jazz Expedition

Nancy and Randall Faber

*Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

Thank you to. . .

Guest Preacher: Rev. Laurel Nelson, Liturgist: David Lee
Andrew McAleavey, piano

Chancel Choir Members

Soprano: Nicole Knickerbocker, Carolina Sullivan, Joan Sussman, Nyla Thomas

Alto: Cecelia Allchin, Kathryn Borden, Elizabeth Jackson, Emmalouise St. Amand

Tenor: Olivia Anderson, Jason Cloen, Mark Darling, Evan McMahon

Bass: Rob Brown, John DeHority, Elijah Gebers, Alan Jones, Stephen Lloyd

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The flowers on the communion table are given by **Grania Marcus** to
 commemorate the birthday of her grandson, Everett Patrick Hong, who passed
 away in 2015.

This Week at Downtown United Presbyterian

<u>Tuesday, March 19</u> 10:30 Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 Session Meeting via Zoom <u>Wednesday, March 20</u> 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 4:30 Sunday Forum Mtg via Zoom <u>Thursday, March 21</u> 10:00 Personnel Mtg via Zoom <u>Sunday, March 24</u> Palm Sunday 9:45 Sunday Forum –The Science of Gratitude 10:00 Choir Warm-up 10:45 Nursery 11:00 Worship - Rev. Val Fowler 11:15 Sunday School 12:00 Coffee Hour in Sanctuary	<u>Tuesday, March 26</u> 10:30 Bible Study via Zoom <u>Wednesday, March 27</u> 7:00 Choir Rehearsal <u>Thursday, March 28</u> 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service Led by Rev. Val Fowler <u>Friday, March 29</u> Good Friday 10:00 Highland Park Meditation Walk- John DeHorty <u>Sunday, March 31</u> Easter Sunday 9:45 Sunday Forum – TBD 10:00 Choir Warm-up 10:45 Nursery 11:00 Worship - Rev. Val Fowler 11:15 Sunday School 12:00 Coffee Hour in Sanctuary
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395 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
 3 Glo - rious Lord, your - self im - part, Light of Light, from

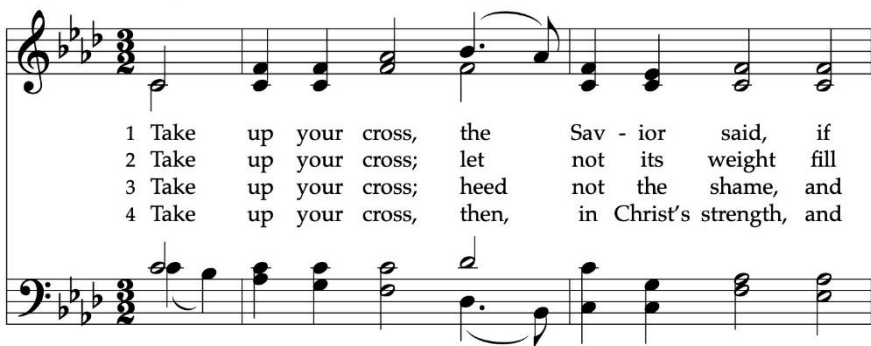
gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed, till your Spir - it breaks our night,
 God pro - ceed - ing. Touch our lips and ears and heart;

and in glow - ing faith be near you. By your gos - pel
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
 help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your

true and ho - ly, teach us, Lord, to love you sole - ly.
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
 church now rais - es; hear, and bless our prayers and prais - es.

Originally conceived to be sung before the sermon, this hymn assumes a congregation that assembles regularly, and it needs to be placed near the beginning rather than the end of worship. The simple repetitive tune reinforces the text's sense of receptivity and expectation.

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said 718



1 Take up your cross, the Sav - ior said, if
 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight fill
 3 Take up your cross; heed not the shame, and
 4 Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, and



you would my dis - ci - ple be; take up your cross with
 your weak spir - it with a - larm; Christ's strength shall bear your
 let your fool - ish pride be still; the Lord for you ac -
 calm - ly ev - ery dan - ger brave: it guides you to a -



will - ing heart, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.
 spir - it up and brace your heart and nerve your arm.
 cept - ed death up - on a cross, on Cal - vary's hill.
 bun - dant life and leads to vic - tory o'er the grave.

Written by a nineteen-year-old in Connecticut, this challenging text has been widely printed on both sides of the Atlantic. It is strengthened by its resolute repetition of the same four words at the beginning of each stanza and by the appropriately stark shape note tune.

692 Spirit, Open My Heart

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A7)
F B $\flat$ F B $\flat$ C7

Refrain

Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of
liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing
and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart. *Fine*

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
sis - ter, broth - er. In the wel - come of

to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
Christ, may we wel - come one an - oth - er.

to Refrain

The pace and diversity of modern life often hinder us from remaining vulnerable to our emotions and to the humanness of other people. This prayerful text to be open to such joys and pains draws on Ezekiel 11:19 and 36:26 in stanza one and echoes Jeremiah 31:33 in stanza two.

Welcome Visitors!

Nursery Care for children up to 2nd Grade is available in room C24.

Children not in nursery care will be invited forward during the “Time with Our Children and Youth” for a brief time with the pastor, and then will be taken up to their Sunday School room by their teacher. Parents are welcome to come up with their kids if they would like.

You may place your offering in the offering plates as they are passed. If you would like to donate online you can use the QR code to the right to make your contribution to the church.



+We seek to use diverse images and liberating language about divine presence in our services of worship. Please feel free to adapt the words in hymns and prayers as needed so that they express your faith.

This is a Hearing Loop equipped sanctuary – please switch your hearing aid to the “T” (telephone) position.

*** An asterisk indicates** “please rise in body or spirit.”

We hope you will join us after worship for conversations and refreshments! Cookies and drinks are available in the front of the sanctuary.

^Joys and Concerns – If you have a joy or concern that you would like to lift in prayer today, please complete a Prayer Request slip (available by the worship bulletins) naming the person(s), situation or event, and any other information that you would like to be shared. The prayer requests will be collected during the hymn following the sermon and provided to the pastor.

March 2024
DUPC Sunday Forum Series
Sundays, 9:45AM—Shaw Room

MARCH
3

Beyond Resistance
The Institutional Church
Meets the Postmodern World

MARCH
10

by John Dorhauer

Come join in the continuing discussions of this thought-provoking book led by several congregation members.

MARCH
17

March 3rd will be a time for attendees to share thoughts and ideas, and discuss the recently posed questions.

March 10 & 17 - led by Leah Kone and/or Nancy Simpson

MARCH
24

The Science of Gratitude

Presenter: David A. Orange

Research shows gratitude does more than just help us to feel good—being grateful can also support greater mental and physical health for ourselves and our communities.
Come learn more about the many benefits of gratitude.

The Downtown Church Staff

Eileen Dietsch, Director of Operations
Jackie Griffin, Nursery Coordinator
Robin Shultz, Sunday School Teacher
Joseph Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor
Ed Verna, Maintenance
Moses Nhial, Maintenance
Tyrone Reeves, Maintenance

Lee S. Wright, D.M.A.,
Director of Music Ministry
Jason Cloen, Associate Musician
Alan Jones, Associate Musician
David Mear, Business Manager
Andrea Piccone, Bookkeeper
& Receptionist Coordinator
Keisha Betts, Office Administrator
Kelly Muñiz-Miles, Receptionist

Parish Leaders

Mary Rees and Lea Kone, co-Clerks of Session
Henry Ehindero, Cindy Hamilton, Jacque Hancock co-Moderators of Deacons

Session

The Rev. Laura Norris-
Buisch, Moderator
Nancy Brown
David Lee
Bob Richane
Sally Allison
Sam King

Jim Vesper

Raina Bouphavong
Pat Tweet
Mary Rees

Deacons

Bob Carlisle
Andrea Folan
Elizabeth Katz
Elaine Johnson

Stephen Lloyd
Grania Marcus
Carol Samuel
Kelley Sheils
Marilyn Terpening
Sandy Morales
Helen Ganotis

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