WE COME TO WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY

“I Cry to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ”
Dietrich Buxtehude
(1637-1707)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

In the presence of your people I will praise your name,
For alone you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.
Let us celebrate your goodness and your steadfast love;
May your name be exalted here on earth and in heaven above.
--from Psalm 22

text and music © 1977 Broadman Press

PRAYER OF THE DAY

HYMN #826

“Lift High the Cross”
CRUCIFER
(stanzas 1,2,4)

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. 

Refrain

All newborn servants of the crucified
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died. Refrain

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the crucified for victory. Refrain

CALL TO CONFESSION

Paul Means, Associate Pastor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together)

God of Promise, thank you that you are with us and love us all the time. We know that not only this past week, but other times in the past, we have not always lived the way you call us to live. We have done wrong things and not done all the good things we should have done. So please for give us and help us to live so that through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord, we deny our selfish living and take up our cross and follow you. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.
SOLO

“Take Up Your Cross”
Ray Milliken/Ray Boltz
Stephanie Carson, Soloist

Take up your cross and follow Jesus.
Take up your cross everyday.
Don’t be ashamed to say that you know Him.
Count the cost, then take up your cross and follow Him.

What are you doing for the King?
Have you really given everything for the one who gave his all for you?
Don’t you be satisfied just to know that the Lord has saved your soul?
Have you forgotten what you need to do?
I said I know sometimes that the road is long.
And I know sometimes that you feel like you can’t go on. So you just..

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE 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 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.

CALL TO OFFERING

HYMN #216 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
a home within the wilderness, a rest up on the way,
from the burning of the noon-tide heat, the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:
the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

WE GROW IN THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

(NRSV)
Mark 8:31-38

LENTEN SERIES
From Dust to Promise: Refreshing Our Hearts
Sermon #2 “The Way of Discipleship”
Chris Curvin, Pastor

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

HYMN #718 “Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”

German

Take up your cross, the Savior said, if you would my disciple be;
Take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me.
Take up your cross; heed not the shame,
and let your foolish pride be still;
the Lord for you accepted death
upon the cross, on Calvary’s hill.

Take up your cross, then, in Christ’s strength,
and calmly every danger brave:
it guides you to abundant life
and leads to victory o’er the grave.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY  “Prelude in B Flat”  Dietrich Buxtehude

Stephanie Carson, Music Director
Tom Huffman, Organist & Associate Music Director
Lift High the Cross

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim

till all the world adore his sacred name.

Fine

till all the world adore his sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
2 All new-born servants of the Crucified
3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:

the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.
your death has brought us life eternally.
praise to the Crucified for victory.

This majestic hymn celebrates the paradox that for Christians a means of painful death has been transformed into a symbol of renewed life; a sign of defeat has become an emblem of victory. With the cross traced on our foreheads at Baptism we are marked as Christ’s own forever.
216 Beneath the Cross of Jesus

1 Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noon-tide heat, and the burden of the day.

2 Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:
the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

3 I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

For sheer intensity of feeling few hymns can match this meditation on the cross; impressive images and strong contrasts combine to give the text its ardor. The passionate language is augmented by the highly chromatic tune later composed for these words.
Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said 718

1 Take up your cross, the Savior said, if
you would my disciple be; take up your cross with
will-ing heart, and hum-bly fol-low af-ter me.

2 Take up your cross; let not its weight fill
your weak spir-it with a-larm; Christ's strength shall bear your
spir-it up and brace your heart and nerve your arm.

3 Take up your cross; heed not the shame, and
let your fool-ish pride be still; the Lord for you ac-
cept-ed death up-on a cross, on Cal-vary's hill.

4 Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, and
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.

TEXT: Charles William Everest, 1833, alt.
MUSIC: Attr. Freeman Lewis, 1814; harm. John Leon Hooker, 1984
Music Harm. © 1984 John Leon Hooker