

ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Rev. June Boutwell, Senior Pastor
Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries
April 11, 2021 10:30 a.m.

*Where the past and the future with Jesus Christ are celebrated
so the present can be lived abundantly.*

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to worship all those joining us on-line and those in the sanctuary. It is good to gather as the body of Christ.

The Altar flowers are placed in memory of our parents and grandparents Bud and Phyllis Huntley by Gary, Kim, Kari and Hali Iliff.

A Time of Gathering

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

Pat Seiple, Lector

Leader: And now may we prepare our hearts and minds for worship as we are gathered in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES AND THE ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT

Emily Rinella, Acolyte

PRELUDE

"Jesus Paid It All"

Lyndell Leatherman

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Acts 4:33

With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

CALL TO WORSHIP (written by Moira Laidlaw)

Pat Seiple, Lector

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, the light of your love shines on, illuminating the places where you are present. As the bewildered disciples pondered the stories of your appearance, you penetrated the darkness of their fear and doubt with your word of peace. You showed them the appalling marks of evil pierced on your hands and feet. You opened their minds to understand why you had to die to defeat such evil and death.

People: Increase our understanding, we pray, and open our minds and hearts to receive you, Lord.

Leader: Speak your word of peace to us and let your love shine on any dark areas in our lives.

People: May this worship which we offer in your name be a worthy response to your love and your sacrifice for us. Amen.

OPENING SONG "Awesome God" (CCLI # 41099)

Harmony optional

The musical score is written in 2/2 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first system shows the vocal line and an optional harmony line. The lyrics are: "Our God is an awe-some God; He reigns from heav-en a-bove With". The second system continues the vocal line with lyrics: "wis-dom, pow'r and love; Our God is an awe-some God! Our God! Our". The third system shows the vocal line and optional harmony line with lyrics: "God is an awe-some God; He reigns from heav-en a-bove With". The fourth system continues the vocal line with lyrics: "wis-dom, pow'r and love; Our God is an awe-some God! Our God! Our". The fifth system shows the vocal line and optional harmony line with lyrics: "God is an awe-some God! Our God is an awe-some God!".

Our God is an awe-some God; He reigns from heav-en a-bove With

wis-dom, pow'r and love; Our God is an awe-some God! Our God! Our

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God is an awe-some God! Our God is an awe-some God!

A Time of Prayer

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus, you are the Light of the World. Shine your light in me today. Chase away the darkness of sin, the darkness of fear and doubt and despair. Fill me with the light of your truth, your Word. Teach me what is pleasing to you. Make me a shining example of your amazing grace, redeeming love, and life-changing power. Hear our prayers....

A MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION AND PRAYER

THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND LOVE

A SONG OF ASSURANCE Amazing Grace, verse 1

**Amazing grace how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND 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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

**Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your spirit in this place,
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

Dwelling in the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 20:19-31 (New Revised Standard Version)

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he

breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin^[a]), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Footsteps”
Bill Henry, Soloist

Stephen and Heather Taylor

SERMON

True Believers

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

There are offering plates at the back of the sanctuary. The ushers will bring forward your gifts to be dedicated at the altar as we sing the doxology.

Doxology (note Easter words)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God for all that love has done.
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

CLOSING HYMN “Arise, the Kingdom is at Hand” (bulletin page 5)

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

“Aylesford Piece”

George F. Handel

MEDITATION: George Carlin

Tell people there's an invisible man in the sky who created the universe, and the vast majority will believe you. Tell them the paint is wet, and they have to touch it to be sure.

ARISE, THE KINGDOM IS AT HAND

JOHANN RIST, 1651

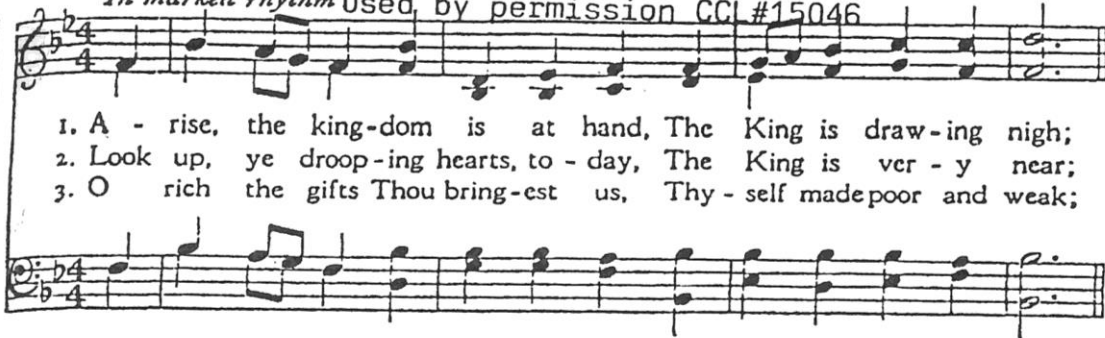
Fr. CATHERINE WINKWORTH, 1858

C.M.D.

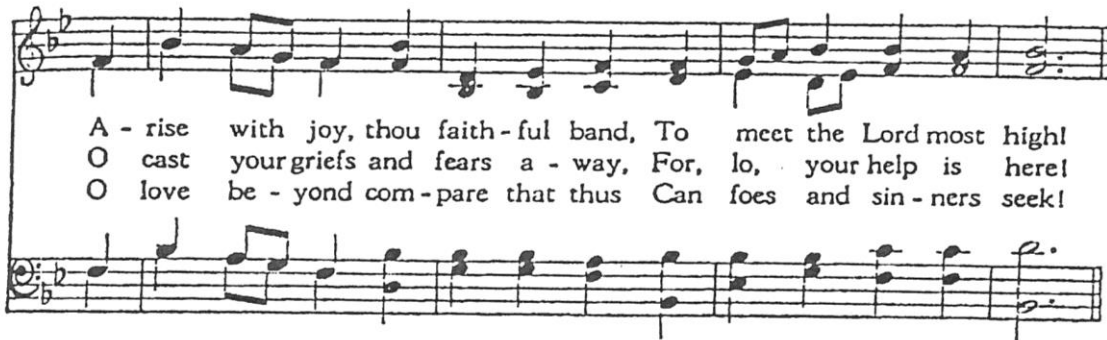
ELLACOMBE

Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Württembergischen
Katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784

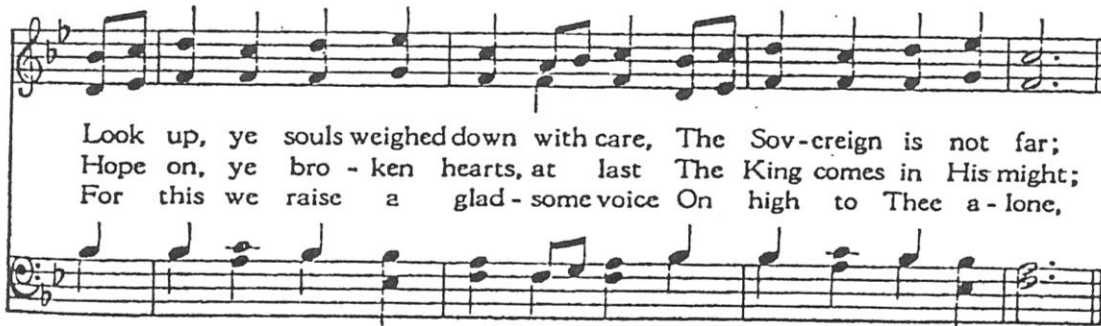
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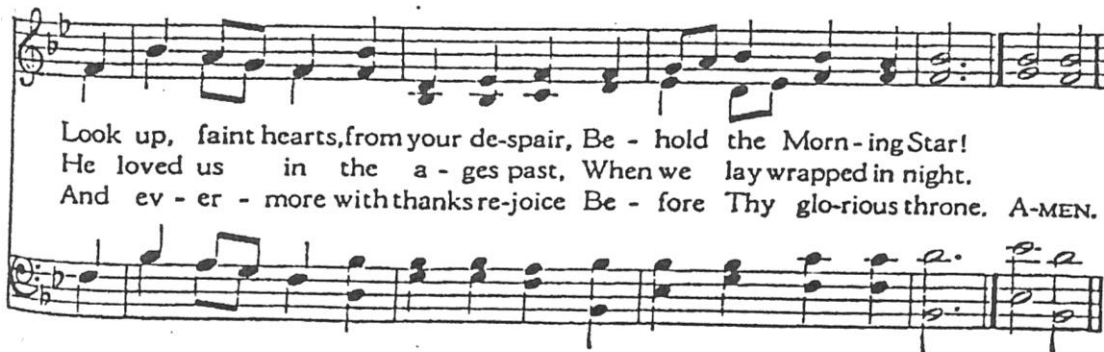
1. A - rise, the king-dom is at hand, The King is draw-ing nigh;
2. Look up, ye droop-ing hearts, to - day, The King is ver - y near;
3. O rich the gifts Thou bring-est us, Thy - self made poor and weak;



A - rise with joy, thou faith-ful band, To meet the Lord most high!
O cast your griefs and fears a - way, For, lo, your help is here!
O love be - yond com - pare that thus Can foes and sin - ners seek!



Look up, ye souls weighed down with care, The Sov-creign is not far;
Hope on, ye bro - ken hearts, at last The King comes in His might;
For this we raise a glad - some voice On high to Thee a - lone,



Look up, faint hearts, from your de-spair, Be - hold the Morn-ing Star!
He loved us in the a - ges past, When we lay wrapped in night.
And ev - er - more with thanks re-joyce Be - fore Thy glo-rious throne. A-MEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special thanks to Bill Henry for providing special music today.

The Immerse Bible Study begins Tuesday, April 13 at 11:00 in the Anderson Lounge.

The Knitting Group will meet Tuesday at 1:00 in the Anderson Lounge.

Pastor June will be on vacation from April 14 through 27. Pastor Glenn will be leading the service on the 18th and 25th and will lead the Immerse Class during that time.

Those interested in helping with the Backpack Program on April 20 should contact Leslie Graul at 724-588-7686.

The Prayer Chain will meet after worship on April 25 in the chapel.

The Good Shepherd Center request for April is canned vegetables and peanut butter.

The Thrift Store at The Good Shepherd Center is now open Monday thru Friday from 10:00-4:00.

The Mercer County Housing Authority is offering rent and utility relief for landlords and tenants. Applications can be obtained from The Good Shepherd Center at 35 S. Water St. (the Food Pantry).

The Community Food Warehouse is holding a Food Distribution Day for Veterans at the Greenville VFW on Tuesday April 13. Please call Sarah Worthington at 724-981-0353, Ext. 106 to pre-register.