

Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—July 5, 2026



God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places,
our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world,
we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

Author: James Weldon Johnson (1921)
Composer: J. Rosamond Johnson (1921)

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from *Discipleship Ministries UMC*

LEADER: We gather this morning appreciating our freedom to worship God in spirit and in truth.

PEOPLE: **We thank You, Lord, for the blessings of liberty and the heritage of this great land.**

LEADER: Let us never take for granted the privilege we have to gather, to pray, and to lift our voices.

PEOPLE: **We come into Your presence with thanksgiving and into Your courts with praise.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord!

*HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing
#519 UMH

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that
the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that
the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way
that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path thru
the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostle's Creed

#881 UMH

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God
the Father Almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*universal

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 11:28-30 (NRSVUE)

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.
²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

TIME SINGING OUR FAVORITE HYMNS—8:20am

TIME WITH CHILDREN—9:40am

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HYMN

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
#2193 FWS

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.

Words & Music: Ken Medema
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CONFESSIOAL PRAYER

adapted from a writing by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Pastor: Trusting in God's tender mercy, let us confess our sin to God.

God, we confess that our hearts have been closed to you. We have judged one another, and so we have not been able to hear your Truth. We have been absorbed in our expectations instead of your grace, and so, we have not witnessed your miracles. We have not loved our neighbors and we have not loved ourselves. Forgive us, heal us, and create us anew. Hear now the silent confessions of our hearts:

(Silent Prayer)

And now let us pray in boldness of faith saying:

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.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Offer the peace of Christ by saying:

The peace of Christ be with you.

Respond: And also with you!

HYMN

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
#2193 FWS

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.

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GIVING

OFFERTORY

*RESPONSE

#95, UMH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

John 8:36 (NRSVUE)

³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Free in Christ

Rev. David W. Brown

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Table of the Lord is set for all. Come and feast in the Savior's love. All are invited to confess, be forgiven, live as redeemed.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your hearts and lives to the Lord.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

It is good and beautiful to give God our praise.

God, you create all things, and nothing is beyond your power. You form all people in your image, and no one is beyond your love. You judge the forces of oppression and set us free, and no force or nation can overpower your grace. You gather us to your table, not by our deserving but by your grace, no one is excluded. Therefore, with people in every nation, in every language, we sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes

in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are all who come in your name, who work for justice, who pray for healing, who proclaim your grace. Blessed is Jesus, who embodied your love. He taught and healed; and He gathered a community that crossed all boundaries. For His witness He was opposed; He was convicted and crucified. But in the power of your grace he rose again. He has set us free, and so we give you thanks.

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On the night in which He gave Himself for us Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, blessed it with thanks and gave it to them, saying, “Drink of this, all of you. This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, in a new Covenant, which is the forgiveness of sin.”

As long as we break this bread and share this cup we remember His death and resurrection, until He comes again in final victory.

Therefore, remembering these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as a living and holy sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Dying, Christ destroyed our death.
Rising, Christ restores our life.
Let our lives be formed in Christ alone.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and cup, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ. Pour out your Spirit on us, that we may be for the world the Body of Christ.

Send us as agents of healing, as bearers of good news. May your power be made perfect in our weakness, for the sake of the wholeness of the world, in the name and the Spirit of Christ.

— adapted from a writing by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

Elements are gluten free so that all might participate. Receive a piece of bread and dip it into the cup. You may also wish to find the package of sealed elements near the grand piano. All are invited at the Table of Christ.

*HYMN

Cry of My Heart
#2165 FWS

Chorus: *It is the cry of my heart to follow You,
It is the cry of my heart to be close to You.
It is the cry of my heart to follow,
All of the days of my life.*

Teach me Your holy ways, O Lord,
So I can walk in Your truth.
Teach me Your holy ways, O Lord,
And make me wholly devoted to You. (Chorus)

Open my eyes so I can see
the wonderful things that You do.
Open my heart up more and more,
And make me wholly devoted to You. (Chorus)

Author & Music: Terry Butler
© 1991 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing

BENEDICTION

adapted from Timothy Dudley-Smith

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God’s name!
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God’s might!
Firm is the promise, and God’s mercy is sure:
tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children’s children and for evermore!

In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer
we pray. Amen.

POSTLUDE

**Stand in body or in spirit*

Liturgist at 8:30 – Mark Paluta

Liturgist at 9:40 – Jane Florer

*Greeters at 9:40 – Jim Pearce and Wease and Joe
Rhodenbaugh*

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are from Charlene Pflugstag
Lewis in loving memory of her husband, Ralph.*



*Gather for coffee and treats in the Atrium
following the 9:40 service!*

REGISTER YOUR
ATTENDANCE



ONLINE
GIVING



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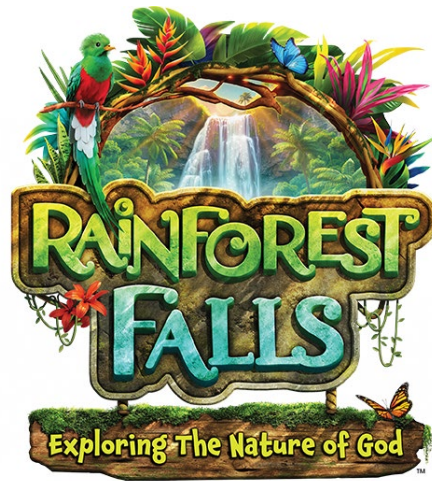


Backpacks
Pens, Pencils, Highlighters
Crayons, Markers
Binders, Paper, Dividers
Spiral Notebooks
Flashcards, Post-it Notes
Index Cards
School Year Planners and Calendars
Whiteout and Erasers
Thumb Drives (new/unopened)
or monetary donations and we will shop

Benefitting Found House IHN
Supplies Due by July 19

VBS Prep!

We have nearly 200 wonderful kids signed up and want to ensure they have a wonderful experience here at Armstrong Chapel. Part of that is creating a fun, inviting space – a trip to the rainforest! That’s where you come in! Take a look at the slots available to come in and help create and setup for this fantastic week. There is a space for everyone – from collating needed materials to painting and crafting set design! You do not need to stay the entire time slot – come when you are available. Meet in the Children’s Center.
<https://bit.ly/4wR6wgi>



Vacation Bible School celebration

Sunday, July 19
Combined Worship
at 10am
in the Worship Center
(8:20am service in the Old Chapel as scheduled)

Women UNITED Monthly
Luncheon
JULY 8
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
Share in a lunch filled with laughter, fellowship, and joy.
National Exemplar
6880 Wooster Pike
CONNECT • ENCOURAGE • INSPIRE

**MEN'S
BREAKFAST**
BREAKFAST, COFFEE, AND GREAT FELLOWSHIP.
JULY 18 SATURDAY
8:00 - 9:30 AM
IN THE ARMSTRONG ROOM
COME HUNGRY. LEAVE ENCOURAGED.



A Welcoming Community Alive in Serving Christ

Stay connected with
**Armstrong
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Rev. Elizabeth Brown, Congregational Care Pastor Shanon Rice, Director of Digital Communications
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