

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
FEBRUARY 28, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

PRELUDE

Toccatà: Aberystwyth

David Bednall
(b. 1979)

As the prelude is played, prepare your home, yourself, and your family to enter into this time of worship.

OPENING PRAYER (IN UNISON)

Lord of presence and power, be with us on this second step of our Lenten journey to the Cross. Help us to make a commitment of our minds, our bodies, and our spirits to life in your name. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

My Song Is Love Unknown
Chancel Choir

LOVE UNKNOWN

1. My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to me, Love
 2. Christ came from heav - en's throne Sal - va - tion to be - stow, But
 3. Some - times they strew His way, And His sweet prais - es sing, Re -
 4. They rise, and needs will have My dear Lord made a - way; A
 5. Here might I stay and sing, No sto - ry so di - vine: Nev -

to the love - less shown That they might love - ly be. O who am
 peo - ple scorned and none The longed - for Christ would know. But O my
 sound - ing all the way Ho - san - nas to their King. Then "Cru - ci -
 mur - der - er they save, The Prince of life they slay. Yet stead - fast
 er was love, dear King, Nev - er was grief like Thine. This is my

I That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh, and die?
 Friend, My Friend in - deed, Who at my need His life did spend!
 fy!" Is all their breath, And for His death They thirst and cry.
 He To suf - fer - ing goes, That He His foes From thence might free.
 Friend, In whose sweet praise I all my days Could glad - ly spend.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Since the Lord takes no pleasure in the death of anyone, let us confess our sins, repent, and live.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

Heavenly Father, even though we vowed to come with you through all the trials and fears toward the cross, we continue to face the challenges which true commitment brings. Are we willing to offer our whole selves to you? We would like to think that we can do that; but we are aware of how many times we have turned away from your will, and focused instead on our own desires. Remind us again of the commitment you would have us give if we are to become disciples. Forgive our stubbornness and fears. Lead us forward, gracious Lord, toward the cross. Amen.

PERSONAL CONFESSION AND MEDITATION (IN SILENCE)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: The journey of discipleship is never easy; but you can be assured that you will not be on the journey alone. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (IN UNISON)

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may not only hear your Word, but also do it; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, I will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."



CALL TO PRAYER

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Let us pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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 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.

GIVING



OFFERTORY

O Come to The Altar
Aldersgate Praise Band

Elevation Worship

BENEDICTION

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Rhulon Fowler by Joyce, Kim, and Todd.

The Upper Room: The March-April issue of The Upper Room is available. Please feel free to stop by the church and pick up a copy. Copies are located in the Welcome Center.

Scripture Readers Wanted for Online Worship: We would love to include any of you in the congregation who are comfortable to assist in worship by reading Scripture. We record worship on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. You can come at that time and we will record you leading the Prayer of Illumination and then sharing the Scripture, just as we used to do when worship was in-person. The Prayer of Illumination is already written, and we will send you the Scripture passage ahead of time so you can practice if you want to. We will record your part of the worship service first, and then you would be free to go while we record the rest of the service. If this is something you would like to do, or ask more questions about, please contact me at ross@frontstreetumc.org. We would like to start this as soon as possible.

Bible Study Opportunities: Join Pastor Ross on **Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m.** for a Bible Study on the book of Luke and Pastor Patrick on **Thursday nights at 7 p.m.** for a Lenten Bible study walking through the book of Ruth. Both studies meet via Zoom. Look for the Zoom links in Tuesday's *Front Street Happenings* email. If you would like to participate but are unable to join us on Wednesday morning or Thursday evening, these gatherings are recorded and posted on our website and available to view at a time that suits you.

Lent Literature: We have available some literature to share containing suggestions that are designed to help you observe a holy Lent at home. The literature is available on the church website and in the Welcome Center.

United Methodist Women: Circle #2 is collecting donations for Peg's PJs. Peg's PJs is a nonprofit organization that provides pajamas, bed linens, underwear, and blankets to displaced children in Alamance County. Children's new pajamas, underwear (all sizes), sheets, pillowcases, blankets, and bedspreads are needed. Please place items in the blue bins located in the Welcome Center in front of the bulletin board. Porch drop offs or checks payable to Peg's PJs are accepted at 2017 Shirley Drive, Burlington. Questions? Call Kathy Roberson at 336-380-5664. The last date to contribute is **March 15**.

March Mission Food Distribution: Beginning in March, we will have a monthly mission focus. Our March mission will provide two opportunities for members of our church family (all ages) to join us in packing up and distributing food to the community. 1) At 1:00 p.m. on **Thursday, March 18**, volunteers are needed to pack 200 bags of food in Aldersgate Hall—all the food will be provided and packing stations will be spaced apart for physical distancing. 2) These bags will be distributed on **Saturday, March 20** (10 a.m.-noon) to families and individuals in a drive-thru line. Both events will be physically distanced and

gloves will be provided. Please wear a mask. Contact Marcy McAdams (marcy@frontstreetumc.org) for more information.

Project AGAPE Collection: Our Conference and the Western NC Conference have been asked to help our friends in Armenia who have been forced to abandon their property due to military conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The following is a list of supplies needed by the end of March 2021. These are items that are very hard to find in the mountainous areas of Eastern Armenia.

- New bed linens, pillows, and blankets
- New or like-new children's clothing (up to age 16)
- New shoes (old shoes cannot be shipped)

Donations may be dropped off in the Welcome Center. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please send a check to the church office with Project AGAPE noted in the memo line. The deadline for donations is **Friday, March 19**.

Sanctuary Flowers: The following dates are available to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one: **March 7, 14, and 21**. For more information, please contact Linda Paul at 336-543-5081 (cell) or kpaul5@triad.rr.com (email).

Cereal and Canned Goods for the Salvation Army: We continue to collect cereal and canned/dry goods for the Salvation Army. Please feel free to drop off these items any time during the month. You may deposit cereal or other canned/dry goods in the tubs in the cabinet in the Welcome Center or call Betty Huneycutt (336-212-0704) for porch pick up. Thank you for your continued support of stocking the food pantry at the Salvation Army.

WORSHIP NOTES

Prelude

David Bednall is a British organist and composer who is recognized as one of the leading choral composers of his generation. He studied composition with John Pickard (b. 1963), earning a PhD in Composition at the University of Bristol, and organ with Dr. Naji Hakim (b. 1955) and David Briggs (b. 1962). He has an extensive freelance career as a performer as well as being Sub Organist at Bristol Cathedral. In terms of its harmonic language and musical style, the "Toccata: Aberystwyth" shows the influence of French composers like Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986) and Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992). It is based on a minor Welsh tune by Joseph Parry (1841-1903). The tune is often set to Charles Wesley's "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" (No. 479 in The United Methodist Hymnal), the text of which underscores our need for Christ when we are tempted to sin.

Opening Hymn

This hymn's text is by Samuel Crossman (1624-1683), who was a minister of the Church of England and a hymn writer. Written when only psalm singing was permissible, it moved to a more personal expression of emotions. Beginning with the Incarnation, it moves directly to the events of Holy Week. The Savior's love is defined by his life and death and the writer defines our response in continual praise. The tune LOVE UNKNOWN was written by noted English composer John Ireland (1879-1962), who composed the melody in fifteen minutes on the back of a lunch menu at the suggestion of organist and fellow-composer Geoffrey Shaw (1879-1943). Ireland's tune was credited with bringing the hymn out of obscurity which it had fallen into during Victorian times.