



Walking the Path with God: Picking up Our Cross
2nd Sunday of Lent

WHITNEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 28, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Christina Thompson

WELCOME

Make us to know your ways , O Lord; teach us your paths. For all your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. (From Psalm 25)
Welcome to worship at Whitney United Methodist Church. I am Rev. Christina Thompson.

We are continuing our Lenten journey, seeking to know and walk the path of the Lord. This Lenten journey will guide us all the way to Holy Week and then through Easter.

On this path today, we will look at what we have to give up in order to keep walking the path. I am so grateful that you have joined us on this journey.

LIGHTING CANDLE

We need light for any journey. So, as we walk this path with God, I invite you to light your candle knowing that the light of Christ will guide our way.

Liturgist this morning is Joyce Obland

WHERE WE ARE STARTING FROM

The season of Lent is the 40 days, not counting Sundays that prepare us for Easter. Lent gives us the space and time to ponder who we are, who God is and our relationship with God. So, during worship in this season, we will be offered the space to look at where we are starting from, to be reminded of who God is as we move to where God wants us to be.

TIME OF CENTERING

Covenant God, remember us.
Covenant God, teach us your path
Covenant God, make us to know your truth.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We hear the words from Jesus:

“Take up your cross and follow me.”

These words scare us.
We know what *taking up a cross* meant for him.
We do not feel able to sacrifice our lives.
We are not even ready on most days
to sacrifice smaller things for the sake of the Kingdom.

Today O God we confess our timidity,
our weaknesses,
our fears,
and our hesitations.

As we gather today—

as we look at the cross in front of us,
as we remember the crosses
 we traced on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday,
such a short time ago,
to begin the Lenten journey,
as we think of the Cross that Lent calls us to journey towards
may we find strength in new places deep within our souls.
May we find courage, hope, and the peace
 to really follow Jesus.

May worship today help us
to begin the Lenten journey
towards finding our crosses
and figuring out how to bear them.

Hear our prayers,
remind us of the grace that covers our sin
and offers us the endurance
to the run the race of faith.

Amen and Amen.

~ written by Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo, Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, North Plainfield, New Jersey.
Posted on **LiturgyLink**, <https://www.liturgylink.net/>

TIME OF SILENCE

EXPLORING WHO GOD IS

May God purify our hearts, cleanse us from within, so that we might
be holy, set apart for God.

OPENING SONG

Six Ways to Sunday (Band)

Refiners Fire

CCLI Song # 426298 Brian Doerksen
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Verse 1

Purify my heart
Let me be as gold
And precious silver
Purify my heart
Let me be as gold
Pure gold

Chorus

Refiner's fire
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy
Set apart for You Lord
I choose to be holy
Set apart for You my Master
Ready to do Your will

Verse 2

Purify my heart
Cleanse me from within
And make me holy
Purify my heart
Cleanse me from my sin
Deep within

Chorus [x2]

PASTORAL PRAYER

God of the covenant,
you call us to be fruitful servants within creation,
and to offer our lives
as the foundation of your realm.
We lay before you the desires of our hearts,
that we may be transformed by their fulfillment.

We pray for the people of this congregation . . .

For those who suffer and those in trouble . . .

For the concerns of our local community . . .

For our nation and the world, its peoples, and its leaders . .

For the Church universal –its leaders, its members, and its mission . .

For the concerns that we lift to you only in the quiet of our hearts . .

Grant, O God, that the prayers we offer
may be your channel for new and abundant life
not only hoped for, but worked for, through faithful word and deed.
Amen

(Prayer from Vanderbilt Revised Lectionary Website)

Let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught us to pray

LORD'S PRAYER

Rev Dewey Knowles

WHERE GOD IS LEADING US

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *Joyce Obland, Liturgist*

Holy Spirit,
open our hearts to receive your Word,
reveal to us the good news,
and enable us to trust in the promise of salvation
in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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SCRIPTURE

Joyce Obland

Mark 8:31-38

SERMON

Rev Christina

Walking the Path with God: Picking Up Our Cross

APPLICATION

What does it mean for you to pick up your cross and follow Jesus?
What do you need to do to be able to pick up that cross?
What is the life that Jesus' suffering and death
offers you along this journey?

“Invitation to Follow”

Abandon the illusion you're a self-contained individual.
Be a part of this wounded world,
and find yourself with Christ.

Set aside your own desires,
give yourself fully for others;
be the hands and heart of Jesus.

Renounce self-protection,
accept your brokenness,
and reach out for love.

Let go of your own plans.
Join in the healing of the world.
You will not be alone.

Follow your soul, not your ego.
Follow it right into people's suffering.
Follow it right into the heart of God.

Pour yourself out;
let the world pour in;
then you are one with the Beloved.

~ written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes and posted on Unfolding Light. <https://www.unfoldinglight.net/>

OFFERING

What will it profit us to gain the whole world
and forfeit our life?
With all humility let us make our offering to God,
trusting not in worldly gain, but in God's sustaining grace.

The ways to give to the church are listed there on your screen. You can mail a check to the church or give electronically through our website. Let us now pray of the offerings that will be collected.

Almighty God,
Accept these offerings with the dedication of our lives,
that we may be for the world a sign of your abiding love
and a testament to your enduring promise.

In Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory are yours,
Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Doxology

Andy & Svetlana Maddox

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow – UMH #95

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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**

As we prepare to go into the world,
may we commit to picking up the cross of Christ.

CLOSING SONG

Andy & Svetlana Maddox

Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone #424

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Verse 1

Must Jesus bear the cross alone
And all the world go free ?
No there's a cross for everyone
And there's a cross for me

Verse 2

How happy are the saints above
Who once went sorrowing here
But now they taste unmingled love
And joy without a tear

Verse 3

The consecrated cross I'll bear
Till death shall set me free
And then go home my crown to wear
For there's a crown for me

GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD TO APPLY WHAT WE LEARNED

SENDING FORTH

Disciples of Christ, do not shun the way of the cross, but follow wherever our Lord may lead. May the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, uphold us along the way.

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PASSING THE PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

INVITATION TO NEXT WEEK

I invite you to join us next week on the 3rd Sunday of Lent as we continue walking this path with God—looking at what revives us.

After worship, you are invited to join us for fellowship time on Zoom. The link to join us is in the email you received with the links to this service. There are also instructions on this screen. We will gather about 10:45.

You are also invited to join us on our Facebook Group Whitney United Methodist Church group to chat about the service. You can join the conversation anytime.

Our radio program Reach Out and Trust broadcasts on KBXL 94.1 FM on Sunday morning at 7:30 am and 11:30 am. One of my recent sermons will be broadcast on that program.

May God be with us until we meet again