

Sunday, September 15, 2024
17th Sunday after Pentecost
10: 30AM

DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said 718

1 Take up your cross, the Sav - ior said, if
2 Take up your cross; let not its weight fill
3 Take up your cross; heed not the shame, and
4 Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, and

you would my dis - ci - ple be; take up your cross with
your weak spir - it with a - larm; Christ's strength shall bear your
let your fool - ish pride be still; the Lord for you ac -
calm - ly ev - ery dan - ger brave: it guides you to a -

will - ing heart, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.
spir - it up and brace your heart and nerve your arm.
cept - ed death up - on a cross, on Cal - vary's hill.
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.

BOURBON



Wayne Pascall Art

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Pastor Debbie Johnson

"No Warm and Fuzzy Christians Need Apply"

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Office Hours: 9:00 – 12:00 Noon
Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday

Order of Worship: Sunday, September 15, 2024 17th Sunday after Pentecost

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: : "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." -Mahatma Gandhi

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship:

Deacon Karen Eberle

We are called to follow Jesus.

But following Jesus isn't easy.

No. It will demand our dedication and our energy.

It will change our whole lives.

Come, all of you. Come and learn of the Lord Jesus.

Lord, we come, seeking your wisdom and your guidance. Amen.

Choral Introit: "At the Cross"

* Hymn: "Give Me Jesus" # 443

* **Passing the Peace** - *Please turn to your neighbor and pass the peace of Christ*

Call to Confession:

Let us trust God's mercy and enter the liberating waters of forgiveness and grace. Together, let us boldly confess our sins and acknowledge our need for forgiveness

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

Lord, it is easy for us to say that we will follow you; and then turn our backs and act as though our commitment to you does not mean anything to us. Jesus challenges us to take up our crosses, and when we don't understand what that means, we just shrug and turn away. Forgive us for our lack of commitment and faith. Heal us of our greed and fears. Give us courage to be disciples and enable us to joyfully proclaim your healing mercies and your transformational love. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: (responsive)

God's words and actions are never careless; In sending Jesus Christ to the world, God offers a model and a companion,

Current Prayer Concerns:

Diane Ayres, Virginia Miller, Billie Jones, Marie McCallister, Thomas Simpson, Chris Hazard, Kent Mitchell, Hudson Day, Margy Kreppel, Amy Etheridge, Bonnie Hancock, Eric Richardson, Samantha Kilgore, Lydia Frasca, Diane Devanna, Larry (Black) Blackwell, Kathy Smith, Larry Steele, Mark Payne, Beth Miller, Pat and Ben Steele, Joey Martin, Robert Wilkins, Bob & Dee Lebo, and Margie Baugher-Cramer.

We will always seek to lift the prayer concerns from our church family and community. Please let us know if someone is in need of prayer by reaching out to Beth LaBrunda at 862-266-6939. Please also let us know when we can remove someone from our list.

Bible Study

You will be jumping for joy if you sign up for the Bible study on Philippians which is starting **Thursday, September 19 at 11 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your Bibles and learn about what is called the Book of Joy."

Congregation Financials as of August 31st, 2024:

- Year-to-date giving/income (\$100,845.92) from giving; remainder from parking, building use, etc.): \$148,853.79

- Year-to-date disbursements: \$110,739.67

Note: A bookkeeping change was made to charge \$20,166 against Capital Improvement for the new windows installed in the Manse in 2023. Capital Improvement balance now stands at \$89,666.08.

Our next **Rummage Sale** will be held on Saturday, October 12th, 2024 from 7AM—1PM

This will be the last sale until Spring 2025. If you have summer clothing, please save them until after the sale to bring. Help is always needed.

Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Tues	Sept 17	WOW Meeting	11:00 AM
Wed	Sept 18	Hand Bells Practice	5:00 PM
Wed	Sept 18	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
Fri	Sept 20	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM
Sat	Sept 21	Sligo-by-the-Sea	9:00 AM

Birthdays: *Beth Fisher (9/16)*

Flowers: *Chancel vase flowers are given:*

In memory of Vicky Cairns parents, Charles and Shelia Dominy

Fellowship Hosts Coming Up:

Sep	22	Vicky Cairns & Peggy Webster
Sep	29	OCEANS CALLING NO FELLOWSHIP
Oct	6	TBD
Oct	13	Karen Eberle & Mabel Rogers
Oct	20	Beth Fisher & Peggy Webster

VOLUNTEER



We are looking for some at large members from the congregation to serve on the Committees of the church chaired by Session members. You cannot currently be a deacon or elder, but you are needed!

The Committees are:

- ◇ Worship
- ◇ Fellowship
- ◇ Building & Maintenance
- ◇ Mission/Evangelism
- ◇ Finances & Investment

The Committees will be meeting once a month. If you feel that you can volunteer your time, and you have a specific interest in one of the Committees, please see Pastor Debbie.

A source of ever-flowing love and acceptance and wisdom.
In Christ we are forgiven all our failings, and given strength to start again. Thanks be to God.

*** Gloria Patri:** (unison)

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.

Invitation to the Offering:

In Mark, Jesus asks the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" This question serves as a call to action for us to express and share the transformative and healing love of God that we experience in our lives through our generous giving of tithes and offerings.

Offertory

*** Doxology:** (unison)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly Hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication:

God witnesses the cries and shouts of creation and receives our tithes and offerings. May our streets be filled with jubilation, our cities be embraced by peace, and our lives be blessed with abundance. Amen.

Choral Anthem: "Jesus is Lord of All"

Prayer for Illumination: (unison)

Speak to us, Spirit of Knowledge, so that we may focus on divine things. Pour out your Wisdom upon us so we may respond by taking up our cross and following you. Amen

1st Scripture: Isaiah 50: 4-9a [NRSV]

Jackie Bates

⁴The Lord God has given me a trained tongue, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens, wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my

face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord God helps me therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand in court together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

2nd Scripture Reading: Mark 8: 27-38 [NRSV]

Pastor Debbie Johnson

²⁷ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸ And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹ He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ 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. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ 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."

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ 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, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ 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."

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Time with Children & Youth
Pastor Debbie Johnson

Sermon: "No Warm and Fuzzy Christians Need Apply."
Pastor Debbie Johnson

* Hymn: "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said"
(back of bulletin)

* Affirmation of Faith-The Apostles Creed (unison)
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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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 Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sharing our Concerns and Joys

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (unison)
(Prayer by Hila, and posted on the Love God, Love Neighbour website)

* Hymn: "Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone?" # 449

Charge

Benediction (Responsive)

Postlude and Response: "Three-Fold Amen"

Liturgy credit: Pastor Adam Ryan Quine for the Presbyterian Outlook, Ministry Matters, Love God, Love Neighbor website, www.laughingbird.net, <https://www.ucc.org>

Pastor Debbie is now in Ocean City from **Sunday through Thursday**. She is always available by texting or calling:

843-568-6480

or via email:

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