

Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—August 17, 2025



*A man had a fig tree planted in
his vineyard; and he came
looking for fruit on it ...*

LUKE 13:6, NRSV

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Peace Made Possible | Isaiah 2:2-5

Leader: Come, let's turn to the Holy One.

People: **We come to worship God our Creator.**

Leader: Come, bring your hopes, fears, and longing
for a better world.

People: **We come to praise the Prince of Peace.**

Leader: Come, as your whole self – body, mind, and
soul.

People: **We come to receive the Spirit who gives us
life.**

*HYMN

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
#57 UMH

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of canceled sin,
he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean;
his blood availed for me.

He speaks, and listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

Text: Charles Wesley (1739)

Composer: Carl G. Gläser

Arranger: Lowell Mason (1839)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed #881*

**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.**

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 2:3-4 (NIV)

³ Many peoples will come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths."
The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
⁴ He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

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

SINGING OUR FAVORITE HYMNS—8:20AM

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN—9:40AM

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HYMN

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
#349 UMH

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full at His wonderful face.
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.
Words & Music Helen H. Lemmel (1922)

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Adapted from a writing by Jann Cather Weaver

God of all life and grace,
We thank you for the seasons of this earth:

- the seasons of planting and sowing,
- the seasons of watching and weeding,
- the seasons of harvest and reaping.

(pause in silence)

We also know the seasons of the heart:

- the time of drought of peace,
- the oasis of prayer,
- the storm of grief,
- the measure of long anxious nights,
- the shelter of Easter faith.

(pause in silence)

Grant that in the seasons of our days, we may find
your rich soil for your seeds of hope. God of all life
and grace – stay with us! Be our strength and hope in
all times! In the name of Christ, hear us as we pray
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

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GIVING

*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

Luke 13:6-9 (NIV)

⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷ So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'"

⁸ "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

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

MESSAGE

Parable of the Fig Tree
Rev. David W. Brown

*HYMN

This is a Day of New Beginnings
#383 UMH, vs 1 - 4

This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus,
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.

*Text: Brian Wren (1978; alt. 1987)
Music Harmonizer: Carlton R. Young (1984)
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BENEDICTION

Adapted from a writing by James T. Fatzinger

God sends you forth from the gathered church
to be ambassadors for Christ,
to lift instead of judge,
to help instead of hinder.
Go in the blessing of the Triune God, the Source and
Sustainer of our hope, to share the love of God
wherever you go. Amen.



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

*POSTLUDE

**Stand in body or in spirit*

Liturgist at 8:20 – Lisa Dayton

Liturgist at 9:40 – Victoria Rhodus

Special Music at 9:40 – John Woll

Greeters at 9:40 – Sally Scheer and Galen and Shanon Mills

REGISTER YOUR
ATTENDANCE



ONLINE
GIVING



**Let's worship together
and enjoy a special
Coffee Fellowship time.**



Thanks again to all who continue to help with Coffee Fellowship on Sundays. The following dates are needed to be filled – grab some friends and take charge of the coffee hour together:

- September 7
- September 14
- September 28
- October 5

If you are interested in volunteering to organize a Sunday morning with friends or another family, please contact Denise Scholtz at dscholtz84@yahoo.com.



**Wednesdays at 7:00pm
in the Armstrong Room**

Introduction Meeting – September 10

Class begins September 17

(through the beginning of May)

Led by Kent Smith

Disciple: Into the Word Into the World is the second study in the four-phase Disciple program. This study proclaims the transforming power of Scripture while teaching Bible study skills that take participants deeper into the Scripture. *Disciple: Into the Word Into the World* approaches all experiences of life as opportunities for faithful witness and service. Participants will each need to order a study manual and have a study Bible.

If you have questions about the Disciple program, please reach out to Kent at 513-476-7227. Register at bit.ly/4o9IA37.

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TUTORING OPPORTUNITIES

WE HAVE A NEW VOLUNTEER TUTORING RELATIONSHIP
AVAILABLE WITH **MILFORD FIRST UMC.**
THIS COMING SCHOOL YEAR

2025-2026 WONDERKIDS



READING COACHES NEEDED

Tuesdays 4:00 pm - 6:25 pm
or Wednesdays 3:15 pm - 5:45 pm

TRAINING COMING THIS JULY AND AUGUST

SIGN-UP

today



SCAN THE
QR CODE

OR GO TO OUR WEBSITE

Make a difference in a child's life

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
REBEKAH TRAVIS
RTRAVIS@ARMSTRONGCHAPEL.ORG



ArmstrongKids

We'll kick-off our new Sunday
School year on September 14!

Summer Sunday School programming
continues through Labor Day weekend.
New 7th Graders — watch for Youth info soon!

It's BIBLE SUNDAY too!

We are looking forward to sharing the Word
of God with your child this year! On Sunday,
September 14, we will present age-
appropriate Bibles to our **3 year olds and 3rd
graders** during the 9:40am & 10:30am
worship service. Families have received an
email to RSVP by 9/3. Or visit:
bit.ly/40yow0h.



Rev. David Brown, Lead Pastor
Rev. Elizabeth Brown, Congregational Care Pastor

Stay connected with

Armstrong
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Follow us on...

armstrongchapel.org



Amy Voss, Director of Preschool
Shanon Rice, Director of Digital Communications