

Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—August 31, 2025

For all who
exalt themselves
will be humbled,

Luke 14:11, NRSV

and those who
humble themselves
will be exalted.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from a writing by Dr. Lisa Hancock

Leader When we witness the needs of strangers
and listen to the struggles of our friends,
remember:

People: Let mutual love continue.

Leader: When we hear the struggles of those
suffering, remember:

People: Let mutual love continue.

Leader: As we gather in worship, remember:
God is here among us, surrounding us with
love and forming us to live in extravagant
love everywhere we go.

**People: We choose to cooperate with God's love
today and every day so that mutual love
will continue wherever we go and in
whatever we do. Amen.**

***HYMN** *Love Divine, all Loves Excelling*
#384 UMH

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of Heav'n to Earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit,
Let us find thy promised rest;
Take away our love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver;
Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy host above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory
Till in Heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley (1747)
Composer: John Zundel (1870)

*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.**

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SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 13:15-16 (NIV)

¹⁵ Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. ¹⁶ And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

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

HYMN

Something Beautiful
#394 UMH

Something beautiful, something good;
All my confusion he understood;
All I had to offer him was brokenness and strife.
But he made something beautiful of my life.

Words & Music: Gloria & William Gaither, 1971
© 1971, William J. Gaither

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Adapted from a writing by Christina Fox

Tender and merciful God, when I consider the love you have for me— when I look at the love poured out on me in Christ at the cross— all I can do is fall before you. Speechless. Humbled. Amazed.

Forgive me for not loving you with my whole heart.
Forgive me for not loving my neighbor as myself.
Forgive me for not forgiving others as I've been forgiven. Forgive me for being impatient and unkind.
Forgive me for exalting myself and seeking my own glory and fame. Forgive me for not serving and giving and sacrificing for others.

I pray the roots of love would burrow deep in my heart and bring forth life. Help me to love with greater love. Help me to reflect and image you as I love others. Help me to radiate the love that lives within me through your Spirit to those around me. Help me to live out the love you've shown me in Christ in my thoughts, words, and deeds.

Reshape my heart this day to love you and others. In the name of Jesus I pray, now 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 14:7-14 (NIV)

⁷ When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: ⁸ “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹ If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. ¹¹ For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

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

MESSAGE

Let Mutual Love Continue
Rev. David W. Brown

*HYMN

Love Lifted Me

I was sinking deep in sin,
Far from the peaceful shore,
Very deeply stained within,
Sinking to rise no more;
But the Master of the sea
Heard my despairing cry,
From the waters lifted me—
Now safe am I.

Refrain:
*Love lifted me, Love lifted me,
When nothing else could help,
Love lifted me; Love lifted me,
Love lifted me,
When nothing else could help,
Love lifted me.*

All my heart to Him I give,
Ever to Him I'll cling,
In His blessed presence live,
Ever His praises sing.
Love so mighty and so true
Merits my soul's best songs;
Faithful, loving service, too,
To Him belongs. [Refrain]

Souls in danger, look above,
Jesus completely saves;
He will lift you by His love
Out of the angry waves.
He's the Master of the sea,
Billows His will obey;
He your Savior wants to be—
Be saved today. [Refrain]

Text: James Rowe (1912)

BENEDICTION

Adapted from a writing by Dr. Lisa Hancock

Children of God, go from this place in the blessing of the Triune God, our Helper and our Friend, offering your sacrifice of praise and sharing what you have as you spread the love of God in mutuality and care. Amen.

*POSTLUDE

**Stand in body or in spirit*

Liturgist at 8:20 – Lisa Dayton

Liturgist at 9:40 – Jane Florer

The flowers in the Sanctuary are from Jay and Jackie DeWitt in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary this past week.

Special Music at 9:40 – Fran Black

Greeters at 9:40 – Carol and Jim Pearce



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

REGISTER YOUR
ATTENDANCE



ONLINE
GIVING



Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—August 31, 2025



Armstrong Chapel Handbell Choir is looking for new members. Our rehearsals are each Thursday from 6:30-7:25pm and our first rehearsal of the season is Thursday 9/4. If you have played an instrument in the past it would be helpful to you. We have 5 octaves of handbells, so we welcome more people who are willing to play, especially those who would like the challenge of the larger bells. Contact Chester Imhausen if you wish to serve by ringing (cimhausen@gmail.com or 513-633-6411).

The **Celebration Ringers workshop** is designed for those people wanting to learn the ringing techniques and/or wish to learn more about reading music as they ring. This is a very easy experience with lots of basics in following music and encouragement as you learn to play in a group setting. We will have a three-week workshop in September (and possibly more later in the fall). Our NEW TIME will be 11:10-12 noon on Sept 7, 14, and 21 at in the Handbell Room on the 2nd floor of the Education Wing.



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.



**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.



Experience **Spring Grove Cemetery's** art, history, architecture, and horticulture in person on a 90-minute walking tour given by church member, Scott Darrah.

**Sunday, September 29
2:30pm Tour**

We will have a light lunch following worship before traveling to Spring Grove.

RSVP to Joy in the church office:
jhelton@armstrongchapel.org.



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.



Freeway Brass is an up-and-coming brass quintet located in Cincinnati, OH. The members met and formed the group while attending University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Now a few years later, the quintet strives to bring a high level of performance and teaching to local communities in Ohio and Kentucky. Members of the quintet teach in over 10 school districts all across Cincinnati and Dayton as well as perform with groups such as the Springboro Wind Symphony, River's Edge Brass Band, and the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra.

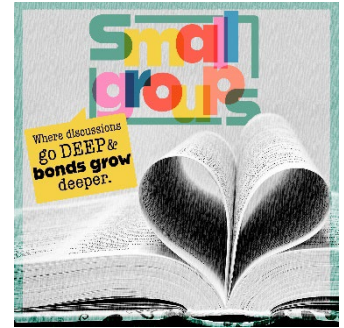
**Sunday, September 21
during 9:40am worship and a
Recital at 4:30pm in the Sanctuary**

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WOMEN'S STUDIES

ArmstrongChapel.org/womenunited

- **Mondays at 9:30am** in the Armstrong Room. New 8-week study begins 9/8. *Lyrics of Life* by Lisa Harper. Learning from the book of Psalms, we will be looking at the variety of circumstances faced by followers of God. Find comfort in any situation based on this songbook of the people of God. Led by Serena Tsuang.
- **Mondays at 6:00pm** in the Armstrong Room (formerly 6:30pm at Panera). New 14-week study begins 9/8. *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus: How the Jewishness of Jesus Can Transform Your Faith* by Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg. This study will help us go deeper into our understanding of Jesus and His teachings. It will help us recognize how Jesus' Jewishness influences the depth of what He says to us in Scripture that will help us better comprehend what He meant and deepen and strengthen our Christian faith. The 2018 expanded paperback edition includes a study guide, prayers that Jesus prayed, details about the feasts, and the Passover Seder liturgy. (For fans of *The Chosen*, this book is an excellent preview, providing depth and clarity for Season 5.) Please contact Victoria Rhodus to order your book.
- **Tuesdays at 9:45am** at the home of Julie Holland. New study begins 9/16. We will start with a study of the gospels that includes finding the harmony in them, understanding more about the world of Jesus, including important facts about the Roman and Jewish world at that time, and finally a study of the resurrection.
- **Thursdays at 6:45am** in the Armstrong Room. Reading William Barclay's study of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. Led by Jan Bell.



MEN'S STUDIES

ArmstrongChapel.org/men

- **Friday Morning Bible Study:** Verse-by-verse study of scripture led by Pastor David Brown. Fridays at 7:00am in the Armstrong Room and via Zoom.
- **Burgers, Brews & the Bible:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00pm at 50 West Burger Bar. Studying 2nd Corinthians. Led by Gordon Miller. Arrive at 6:30 if you plan to eat.
- **715BC:** Breakfast Wednesdays at 7:15am at the National Exemplar in Mariemont. Studying the book of Daniel. Led by Bill Woodward.
- **Armstrong Men "Nooners":** Wednesdays (9/3, 9/17, 10/1, 10/15, 10/29, 11/12, 12/3, 12/17) at noon for lunch at Ferrari's in Madeira. Discussion on the life application questions from the Upper Room devotional. Led by Bryan Holland.



Dear White Friend with author Dr. Mel Gravelly

Rev. David Meredith invites you to this opportunity to learn about deepening relationships across cultural divisions in our city, state, and country with a book discussion and more.

September 9 from 6:30-8:30pm at St Paul Community UMC, hosted by the City of Madeira Inclusion Committee

Dr. Melvin Gravelly eloquently accomplishes what many have undoubtedly wished to do: talk openly to someone we know about race in the United States today. Gravelly uses significant experience as a business and civic leader to express a rare balance in this timely message. His book and this presentation present an invitation to understand three questions at the heart of the issue: What is really going on with race in our country? Why must we care? And what can we do about it together? In the end, Gravelly calls on us to ask ourselves, "What is my role in all of this?"



Stay connected with  **Armstrong**
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