

# GUILFORD COLLEGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Online Worship Bulletin for Sunday, February 21st  
First Sunday in LENT

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! You are invited to share in this worship experience while watching the online service that will be live-streamed from our church sanctuary at 11am on Sunday morning through our Website, Facebook page, and YouTube Channel. To participate, just click on the correct link below:

**[CLICK HERE TO JOIN ONLINE WORSHIP THROUGH OUR CHURCH WEBSITE](#)**

or

**[CLICK HERE TO JOIN ONLINE WORSHIP THROUGH OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#)**

The service will remain up on our website and YouTube channel after that time for later viewing.

This Sunday marks the first Sunday of the Christian season of Lent. Lent is a period of about 40 days (and 6 Sundays) in which we prepare for the celebrations of Holy Week and Easter. Often during Lent followers of Jesus give up something that is important to them as a sacrifice, or share in a partial fast on Fridays, or take on some new service or discipline.

Throughout this Lent we will be sharing in a sermon series called "Lift High the Cross," in which we will be talking about what Jesus' death on the cross really means for us.

Whenever and however you join us, we hope you will actively participate in the service by following the bulletin below, and by joining in the prayers, responses, and songs.

Let us worship God together: Praise the Lord!

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## **GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

Ginny Williamson

**RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**  
*At the Cross, by Chris Tomlin*  
Soloist, Mark Christy

**GREETINGS, WELCOME & PRAISES**  
Rev. Susan Suárez Webster

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**  
Rev. Susan Suárez Webster

You are invited into a time of silent prayer and confession.  
*(time for silent prayer)*

Amen. Let us pray together:

**Blessed Lord, who was tempted in all things like we are, have  
mercy upon our failings.**

**We confess before you all those moments  
when we have yielded ourselves to the ways of sin, evil, mean-  
ness, and selfishness.**

**We repent and ask you to forgive and recreate us.**

**Out of our weakness give us strength.**

**Support us in time of temptation,  
especially when we are tempted  
to believe we can never be changed.**

**Give us such grace that we can see ourselves  
as you see us. Help us to rise from where we have fallen to follow  
you again, stronger than we were before, trusting even more fully  
in your endless mercy.**

**In Christ's name, we pray.**

**Amen.**

God is for us and not against us:  
for that very reason, God sent the Son into the world  
not to condemn the world,  
but that the world might be saved through him.  
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Glory to God! Amen!

# OFFERING OUR PRAISES, GIFTS & PRAYERS

## OPENING HYMN

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*  
UM Hymnal #269, vs. 1-5

Lord, who throughout these forty days  
for us didst fast and pray,  
teach us with thee to mourn our sins  
and close by thee to stay.

As thou with Satan didst contend,  
and didst the victory win,  
O give us strength in thee to fight,  
in thee to conquer sin.

As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst,  
so teach us, gracious Lord,  
to die to self, and chiefly live  
by thy most holy word.

And through these days of penitence,  
and through thy passiontide,  
yea, evermore in life and death,  
Jesus, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life  
of suffering over past,  
an Easter of unending joy  
we may attain at last.

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS

*(Thank you for remembering our church and its ministries in the offerings that you make to God. You may mail your gift to Guilford College UMC at 1205 Fleming Road, Greensboro, NC, 27410, or may drop it off in our secure lockbox outside of our church office. To give to the church or to our community assistance funds online, please visit the secure online giving link at our church website by clicking here:*

**[CLICK HERE FOR GCUMC ONLINE GIVING](#)** )

## **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Donna Ford (with Jordan)

### **CALL TO PRAYER**

*Jesus, Remember Me*

*UM Hymnal # 488*

Jesus, remember me  
When You come into Your kingdom  
Jesus, remember me  
When You come into Your Kingdom

Jesus, remember me  
When You come into Your kingdom  
Jesus, remember me  
When You come into Your Kingdom

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Rev. Susan Suárez Webster

## **LISTENING TO THE WORD**

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE SCRIPTURE AND SERMON**

#### **SERIES: "Lift High the Cross"**

Rev. Jeremy Troxler

### **HYMN OF RESPONSE**

*Lift High the Cross*

*UM Hymnal # 159, vs. 1*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.  
The hosts of God in unity combine.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim

till all the world adore His sacred name.

## SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 1:17-31 (CEB)

Read by Caitlyn Polito

<sup>17</sup> Christ didn't send me to baptize but to preach the good news. And Christ didn't send me to preach the good news with clever words so that Christ's cross won't be emptied of its meaning.

<sup>18</sup> The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved. <sup>19</sup> It is written in scripture: *I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will reject the intelligence of the intelligent.* <sup>20</sup> Where are the wise? Where are the legal experts? Where are today's debaters? Hasn't God made the wisdom of the world foolish? <sup>21</sup> In God's wisdom, he determined that the world wouldn't come to know him through its wisdom. Instead, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of preaching. <sup>22</sup> Jews ask for signs, and Greeks look for wisdom,<sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, which is a scandal to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. <sup>24</sup> But to those who are called—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God's power and God's wisdom. <sup>25</sup> This is because the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Look at your situation when you were called, brothers and sisters! By ordinary human standards not many were wise, not many were powerful, not many were from the upper class. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what the world considers foolish to shame the wise. God chose what the world considers weak to shame the strong.<sup>28</sup> And God chose what the world considers low-class and low-life—what is considered to be nothing—to reduce what is considered to be something to nothing. <sup>29</sup> So no human being can brag in God's presence. <sup>30</sup> It is because of God that you are in Christ Jesus. He became wisdom from God for us. This means that he made us righteous and holy, and he delivered us. <sup>31</sup> This is consistent with what was written: *The one who brags should brag in the Lord!*

This is the word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON MESSAGE

"Lift High the Cross: The Scandal"

Rev. Jeremy Troxler

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

### ^SENDING HYMN

*Power of the Cross*  
Worship & Song #3085

Oh, to see the dawn  
Of the darkest day:  
Christ on the road to Calvary.  
Tried by sinful men,  
Torn and beaten, then  
Nailed to a cross of wood.

#### *Refrain*

*This, the power of the cross:  
Christ became sin for us,  
Took the blame, bore the wrath:  
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh, to see the pain  
Written on Your face  
Bearing the awesome weight of sin;  
Every bitter thought,  
Every evil deed  
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.

#### *Refrain*

*This, the power of the cross:  
Christ became sin for us,  
Took the blame, bore the wrath:  
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh, to see my name  
Written in the wounds,  
For through Your suffering I am free.  
Death is crushed to death,  
Life is mine to live,  
Won through Your selfless love.

*Refrain*  
*This, the power of the cross:*  
*Son of God, slain for us.*  
*What a love! What a cost!*  
*We stand forgiven at the cross.*

**NEXT STEPS**  
**AND BENEDICTION**  
Rev. Susan Suárez Webster

**POSTLUDE**  
Ginny Williamson

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**Guilford College UMC**  
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*At the Cross (Love Ran Red)*

CCLI Song # 7017786

Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Jonas Myrin | Matt Armstrong | Matt Redman

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*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

CCLI Song # 280458

Claudia Frances Ibotson Hernaman

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*Lift High the Cross*

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*Power of the Cross*  
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# GCUMC CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

Among those we are praying for:

## **GRIEVING THE RECENT DEATH OF A LOVED ONE**

*The Family and Friends of H'druin Mlo*  
*Heidi Cohen and Family following the death of her nephew*  
*The Family and Friends of Roger Proctor*  
*The Family and Friends of Cynthia Stone (Annette Lasley's sister)*  
*The Family and Friends of Scott Allen*  
*For Maggie Moree, following the death of her sister*  
*Rev. Oliver Helsabeck and Family following the death of his wife, Susan*  
*For an Un-named Person following the death of a sibling*

## **SUSTAINING PRAYERS**

*Bert Maness (Karen Stone's mother)*  
*Ruby Maness (health concerns)*  
*Sandy Pearman's new grandson Hank*  
*Rickey Vaughn (blockages in arteries)*  
*Larry Powell (pancreatic cancer - of Angels Care Mission in Florida)*  
*John and Sherry Ivey*  
*Myrtle Worley (Ann Sykes and Janet Green's mother)*  
*Betty Kirkman*  
*Chris Blyshak*  
*Heidi Cohen*

## **SUFFERING FROM CANCER**

*Charles Crocker (chemotherapy)*  
*Doug Coley (recovering after bone marrow transplant)*  
*Corey Marion (cancer treatments)*  
*Nick Lubchenko (stem cell transplant)*  
*John Hodges (cancer treatments and test results)*

*Unnamed Congregation Member  
Gene Briggs (Carol Ingram's brother)  
Rhona Wintersteen (Diane Derrick's cousin)  
Karen Buehling (Clarke Crews' sister)*

### **SUFFERING FROM COVID-19**

*Larry Higgins (Michele Waldron's dad)  
Heidi Cohen  
For all who suffer from COVID-19  
For the distribution of the vaccines for COVID-19  
People who are unemployed or struggling financially*

### **STRUGGLING WITH MENTAL HEALTH**

*For Those Experiencing Overwhelming Anxiety  
For Those Experiencing Depression  
For Those Struggling with Addiction*

### **RECOVERING FROM ILLNESS OR INJURY OR SURGERY**

*Steve Sando (Vicki Kidd's brother - emergency hernia surgery)  
Marjorie Liles (fall)  
Shirley Cox (Lynne Beck's mother - intestinal blockage)  
Nancy Porter (Kristen Porter's mother - C-Diff)  
Bill Blyshak (fall)  
Donna Bowman (eye surgery)  
Charlie Groves II (recovering from chest surgery)  
Patty Elkins (retina)*

### **UPCOMING TEST RESULTS OR SURGERY**

*Chuck Downey (upcoming tests)  
Michael Ruley (tests for spots on liver)  
Amy Royal (Carol Ingram's daughter - gallbladder surgery)  
Andy Manry (infection and hernia surgery on Feb. 24th)  
Wes Gullett (procedure on March 4th)  
Suzie Padgett*

### **PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD**

*For St. Timothy UMC and Rev. Nikki Raye Rice  
(following a fire and smoke damage at the church)  
Elizabeth and David Gamble + Palmer and Sophia Rae  
(missionary service at U of Montana)  
For our Preschool Director, Teachers, Students, and Families  
For our ministry partners in Kenya  
for all law enforcement officers  
for an end to racism,  
and true inter-racial beloved community in our church and nation  
for all teachers, educators, families and children  
For local, state, and national leaders  
For those suffering from winter storms*

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# OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP, GATHER, GROW, AND GIVE TOGETHER

## WORSHIP

- **JOIN US FOR WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY EITHER ONLINE (BEGINNING WITH THE LIVESTREAM AT 11:00AM) OR OUTDOORS/DRIVE-IN AT 2:30PM** - Just as a reminder, we haven't quite yet returned to worshipping indoors and in-person: see the announcement below. This Sunday, please worship with us by either clicking on your preferred online worship link below, or by clicking to sign up for our 2:30 outdoor/drive-in worship in the back parking lot (weather permitting).

**[CLICK HERE TO PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE WORSHIP THROUGH THE GCUMC WEBSITE](#)**

or

**[CLICK HERE TO PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE WORSHIP THROUGH GCUMC'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#)**

or

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR 2:30PM OUTDOOR/DRIVE-IN WORSHIP ON SUNDAY](#)**

- **GCUMC IS SPRINGING FORWARD IN MARCH!** - On Sunday, March 7th, we will resume masked and socially-distanced in-person worship in the sanctuary at 11:00am. There is no limit on the number of people who can register, but please sign the online attendance pad in advance so we can know you are coming. Sunday School classes, Journey Groups, Circles, and other church and community groups may also choose to resume masked and socially-distanced indoors and in-person meetings on March 7th - please contact the church office to schedule your room. Then, on Sunday March 14th, as the clock springs forward, we will also be springing forward with a new

worship schedule, as 8:30am masked and socially-distanced in-person worship will resume in the Fellowship Hall, 11:00am masked and socially-distanced in-person worship will continue in the sanctuary, and our Outdoor/Drive-In service will change times to 6:00pm. (Online Worship will continue to be livestreamed each week at 11am on Sunday.) We can't wait to see some of your faces!

- **SERMON BY PHONE IS HERE!** - Because we know that some of our folks cannot access a computer, we have contracted with a new service that makes our weekly sermons available through phone. Please share with those who cannot use a computer that, they can now call 1-336-281-8174 at any day or time after 5pm on Sunday evening and listen to the weekly sermon through their telephone.
- **PARKING LOT FM RADIO BROADCAST NOW AVAILABLE FOR DRIVE-IN OUTDOOR WORSHIP** - We have purchased an FM radio transmitter, so that if you come to the 2:30 outdoor service, you can just stay in your warm car the whole time and tune your radio to 87.9 on your FM radio dial. (Please note this has changed from previous weeks.)
- **TODAY WE WILL CELEBRATE OUR NEWLY MERGED AND CHARTERED BOY SCOUT TROOP 149 AT OUR 2:30PM OUTDOOR SERVICE** - Please make plans to join us and to celebrate these young men.

## GATHER

*\*Reminder: All In-door, In-Person Gatherings at GCUMC are paused due to COVID-19 pandemic conditions\**

- **ORDER YOUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT TAKE-OUT MEAL NOW**- Please place your order for next week, Wednesday, February 24th by NOON on MONDAY through our church's website or by clicking on the following link, which includes the menu of **BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Chocolate Chip Cookies.** There is also a salad or children's option. If you struggle with doing things online, you may also order by calling our church office at 336-292-5833.

**CLICK HERE TO PLACE YOUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT TAKEOUT ORDER**

- **SEEKING CONNECTION? JOIN A JOURNEY GROUP!** - Journey Groups are gatherings of 6-8 people from our congregation who meet together (through Zoom right now) to reflect upon what we have been learning through worship in light of our own experiences, and to talk about our journey in following Christ. The groups provide an opportunity for us to share our joys and our struggles with caring brothers and sisters in Christ who can also be in prayer for us. We would love every person at our church to be connected with a Journey Group. Especially if you are feeling a little lonely or disconnected right now, would you reach out to Bill Brubaker of our church to learn

more about this gift? You can email him at [wbrubaker@bellsouth.net](mailto:wbrubaker@bellsouth.net) or text or call him at 336-554-5791.

- **UMYF GATHERING FOR TEENAGERS THIS AFTERNOON AT 4PM IN THE BACK PARKING LOT** - Please contact Randy Wall at [rwall@guilfordcollegeumc.org](mailto:rwall@guilfordcollegeumc.org) with questions.

- **JOIN US FOR PRAYER THROUGH ZOOM EACH WEDNESDAY AT NOON** - A faithful group from our church meets every Wednesday at noon through Zoom to share prayer concerns, to pray through our church's prayer list, and to pray for our country and world. Please join us: there will be no pressure for you to pray aloud - but we would be grateful for you to come and be in prayer with us. To join Wednesday noon prayer, just click on the link below at that time - or you can log in to Zoom.com and enter the meeting ID #: 943 9181 9687. To call in, dial 1-929-205-6099 and enter that same ID#.

**[CLICK HERE TO JOIN WEDNESDAY NOON PRAYER](#)**

## **GROW**

*\*Reminder: All In-door, In-Person Gatherings at GCUMC are paused due to COVID-19 pandemic conditions.\**

- **GET HELP FOR ADDICTION**- If you are struggling with addiction to alcohol, or if you have a loved one who is, help is available to you. AA is a 12-step program for those seeking freedom from alcohol, and Al-Anon is a 12-step program that provides support to families and friends of alcoholics. We have church members who are active in both groups, and an AA chapter that meets at the church. There are also local meetings of Celebrate Recovery for those who struggle with other forms of addiction. Fellowship Hall is a recommended drug and alcohol treatment center located in Greensboro (<https://www.fellowshiphall.com/>). Please do not suffer in silence - reach out confidentially to Pastor Susan ([ssuarezwebster@guilfordcollegeumc.org](mailto:ssuarezwebster@guilfordcollegeumc.org)) or Pastor Jeremy ([jtroxler@guilfordcollegeumc.org](mailto:jtroxler@guilfordcollegeumc.org)), and we will connect you with help.
- **WOMEN INVITED TO JOIN "FOOD FOR THOUGHT"** - "Food for Thought" is new group for women who want to get together (on Zoom) and swap recipes and kitchen tips. It is designed for experienced cooks to share their insights and join in fellowship with inexperienced cooks who want to learn. Join us! If you're interested, contact Caitlyn Polito at [caitlyn.c.cox@gmail.com](mailto:caitlyn.c.cox@gmail.com).
- **ZOOM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY ON "EZEKIEL" ON TUESDAY EVENINGS AND WEDNESDAY MORNINGS** - The book of Ezekiel reminds us to seek out the Lord in those dark times when we feel lost, to examine our own lives, and to align ourselves with the one true God. The study, called "Ezekiel: Then You Will Know That I Am The Lord" will be held via Zoom on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm starting January 19th and on Wednesday mornings from

9:30-11:45am starting January 20th. The workbook costs \$23. Contact Donna Ford at [dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org](mailto:dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org) to register or for more information.

- **FAITH FILES (GRADES 4-6) AND FAITH FRIENDS (GRADES K-3) CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ON WEDNESDAY @ 6:30PM THROUGH ZOOM** - Questions? Contact Donna Ford at [dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org](mailto:dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org)

## GIVE

- **"FIGHT THE VIRUS" DURING LENT** - Our Serving Team is collecting items and donations to offer **snacks to frontline health workers** and to create **COVID Care Kits** that can be distributed to people who are sick (through social workers and our church family). The snacks will stock the Care Carts for the 200 staff at the Cone Green Valley campus. The Care Kits will include helpful advice for recovery and items needed to fight the COVID virus at home such as gloves, masks, thermometer, pulse/oxygen meter, Hydration and Disinfecting wipes, and snacks.

You can contribute to Fight the Virus in 2 ways:

### **OPTION 1: COVID CARE KITS**

Donate \$50 for a COVID Care kit through this link:

<https://onrealm.org/GuilfordCollege/give/COVIDCAREKITS>

*(You can also give through the giving link on our church's webpage - please make sure to indicate that your donation goes towards the*

*Covid Care Kit. Or you may drop a check to the church off at the church office and put "Covid Care Kit" in the memo line.)*

### **OPTION 2: SNACKS FOR HEALTH WORKERS**

These items can be dropped off in the wagon under the carport at the church anytime between February 17th and March 3rd:

Hershey's Kisses – all flavors  
Vanity Mix chocolates  
Packs of gum – Wrigley's Double mint  
Gatorade G2 Thirst Quencher low calorie  
Sunshine Good Energy Drink  
Nutri-Grain Kellogg's Cereal Bars variety pack  
Mini Pretzels packs  
Nuts and Chocolate trail mix  
Variety Pack Juice  
Peppermint candies  
Packaged cookies  
Packaged chips  
Lance crackers variety pack

\*You may also donate Amazon gift cards to be given to staff members: please do not place these in the wagon, but in the lockbox outside of the church office.

Any questions? Contact Ronica Bowen at [rongaze@aol.com](mailto:rongaze@aol.com) .

- **RED CROSS EMERGENCY BLOOD DRIVE - THIS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH FROM 1:30-6:00PM AT THE CHURCH** - To sign up for a time to donate blood, please click on the link below, enter the church's zip code (27410) and search for the date.

**[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP TO GIVE BLOOD](#)**

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**THE NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF GATHERINGS:**

**Sunday**

Livestream Online Service Broadcast at 11am  
 Outdoor/Drive-In Worship in the Back Parking Lot at 2:30pm  
*(Boy Scouts Sunday)*  
 UMYF for Teenagers in Back Parking Lot at 4:00pm  
 Friendship Cemetery Committee meeting at 4:00pm through Zoom

**Monday**

Order Your Wednesday Night Takeout Meal by Noon

**Tuesday**

Women's Bible Study on Ezekiel through Zoom at 6:00pm

**Wednesday**

Women's Bible Study on Ezekiel through Zoom at 9:30am  
 Wednesday Night Take-out from 5:30-6:30 pm  
*(enter at Ballinger Road Entrance)*  
 Faith Friends (K-3) and Faith Files (4-6) at 6:30pm through Zoom

**Thursday**

Youth Outdoor Fun Night at 6:30pm

**Friday**

Red Cross Emergency Blood Drive from 1:30-6:00pm at the Church

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**QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION  
 AND JOURNEY GROUP DISCUSSION**

*(Choose any which most interest or speak to you)*

1. What's one question you have about the meaning of Jesus' death on the cross, or something about it that you would like to understand better?
2. Have you ever worn a cross or displayed one in your home? Why? Is there a cross you own or have seen that is particularly meaningful to you? Please share about it if so.

3. Have you ever considered the "strangeness" of what Christians believe about the cross, or encountered an unbelieving response about the cross from others? What about the cross might make some say that our beliefs about Jesus' crucifixion are "foolish" or weird?
4. What would be the best modern day equivalent of crucifixion as it was practiced in the ancient world?
  5. Why do you think it is significant that Jesus not only died, but died through crucifixion? What do you think that might show us about the nature and character of God, and how God most often works in the world?
  6. Our Scriptures describes Christ and the cross as "the power of God" and "the wisdom of God." What do you think gives the cross its power to draw or to move people? In what way does the cross speak to or represent a deeper wisdom than much of what passes in the world for "common sense"?
7. What does the cross represent to you personally? In your own words, what does it mean for you?