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Rev. Danielle E. Neff, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Associate Pastor  
Mr. Denny Daugherty, Adult Choir Director & Tech Director  
Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church  
Administrator  
Ms. Donna Gross, Custodian

March 5, 2023

8:00 & 10:30 AM

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**Second Sunday of Lent**  
***Cross***

*If you are a guest, thank you for worshiping with us today. We invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary.*

*We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! For your comfort, we also have a children's corner in the back narthex where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. We also have nursery care downstairs during our 10:30 AM worship service. Additionally, after the children's message during the 10:30 AM service, children from 3 years old—6th grade are invited to participate in Sunday school in our classroom downstairs. They can choose to attend Sunday school or return to their seats to sit with their parents. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!*

**PRELUDE**

*Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken*

Mozart

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

L: We look to the cross to remind us of Jesus' promise of the peace that passes understanding.

**P: But the cross also convicts us of the cost paid for that gift.**

L: We look to the cross for inspiration to endure the costs of discipleship-

**P: To remember that Jesus bids us come.**

L: Our redemption comes through Jesus' suffering on the cross-

P: And the undeniable assurance that death does not have the final word.

ALL: Now we worship God who takes us to the cross and beyond.

**\*OPENING HYMN NO. 198 NCH** (black hymnal, see p. 5)

*Lift High the Cross*

(10:30 AM) **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**\*TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>2</sup>

**ALL:** Today, Lord, I once again take up my cross and follow you. Forgive me for choosing daily to be complacent. Happiness has been my god and I have believed I'm entitled to it. Forgive me for all the excuses I have for not responding to you immediately, with urgency, and sacrificially. Forgive me for complaining about being bored as I sit and do nothing. Forgive me for the times I have tried to make carrying my cross more comfortable. I have been too concerned with finding things to make it easier; gadgets and toys to make my cross lighter, smaller, and cushioned. Forgive me for making excuses and not going with you because I was worried about my health, safety, reputation, loneliness, financial security, and ability to handle extreme weather and getting dirty. Forgive me for focusing on my comfort rather than my character. Forgive me for the times I have not followed you because it wasn't convenient. I didn't want to go out of my way to see the needs around me because then I would feel guilty for not doing something about them. Forgive me for not loving my neighbors— I don't even know their names. Forgive me for trying to pacify my conscience by giving just enough to feel good about myself but not enough to inconvenience my lifestyle. Today, Lord, I once again take up my cross and follow you. Shake me of my complacency; I want to live daily with an urgency to radically be the change you call me to be. Strip me of my comforts; may my love for you be a driving force to live with joyful surrender. Scratch out my schedule; I don't want my circumstances or timeline to influence my dedication and obedience to take up my cross and follow you. Here I am; Send Me. May your word pour out of me like water to the thirsty, and may my life be full of the fruit of the Spirit.

All I am and have I give back to you with open hands knowing that all my needs you will meet as I go with you. Today I take up my cross and follow you. In Jesus Name, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 780 NCH (black hymnal, see p. 4)

*Doxology*

**ALL SING:** Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH NCH NO. 885**

## **A TIME FOR SHARING**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

by Conkey

OFFERTORY RESPONSE NO. 417 (black hymnal, see p. 6, vs. 3 & 4)

*This is a Day of New Beginnings*

**ALL SING:** 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.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**SCRIPTURE  
MESSAGE**

*1 Corinthians 1:18-25 & Mark 8:31-38*

**HYMN NO. 233 NCH** (black hymnal, see p. 7)

*What Wondrous Love is This*

## **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

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

**ALL:** 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

**\*BENEDICTION  
POSTLUDE**

*The Old Rugged Cross*

by Bennard

References

<sup>1</sup>The Call to Worship was written by Barb Neff utilizing passages from the book, *Lent in Plain Sight* by Jill J. Duffield

<sup>2</sup>The prayer of confession is excerpted from a prayer by Hila, and posted on the Love God, Love Neighbour website. <http://www.lovegodloveneighbor.com/take-up-my-cross-and-follow-you-a-prayer-by-hila/>, and accessed as shared on Re:Worship Blogspot on 2/27/23

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Thank you to Denny Daugherty for serving on the tech team. Thank you to the Lenten worship team for planning our worship this morning. The Lenten team members are Andrea Adams, Elaine Bevivino, Deb Herlocker, Barb Neff, & Pastor Danielle. Thank you to Nancy & Barry Schwartz, Barb Stebbins, Les & Doris Loucks, & Lana Fritz for serving on the welcome team. Thank you to the praise team for leading the hymns this morning.

## Doxology

Thomas Ken, 1674

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*Piano*  $\text{♩} = 80$

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise  
4  
God, all crea - tures here be - low; Praise God a - bove, you  
7  
heaven - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.


# Lift High the Cross

Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 1916

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano




Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim; Let

5




all a-dore and praise that sa cred name. 1. Come, Chris - tians,  
2. Each new - born  
3. O Christ, once  
4. Set up your  
5. So shall our

10



fol - low where our Sav - ior trod, the Lamb vic -  
ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied bears on the  
lift - ed on the glo - rious tree, your death has  
throne, that earth's de - spair may cease, be - neath the  
song of tri - umph ev - er be: praise to the

14



to - rious, Christ the Child of God.  
brow the seal of Christ who died.  
brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.  
shad - ow of its heal - ing peace.  
Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

# This is a Day of New Beginnings

Les Garrett, 1967

♩ = 80

Piano



1. This is a day of new be - gin-nings,  
2. For by the life and death of Je - sus,  
3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,  
4. Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us

5



time to re - mem - ber and move on,  
God's might - y Spir - it, now as then,  
step from the past and leave be - hind  
to show and share what love can do.

9



time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,  
can make for us a world of dif - ference,  
our dis - a - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,  
This is a day of new be - gin - nings

13



lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.  
as faith and hope are born a - gain.  
seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.  
our God is mak - ing all things

2.

17



new.

# What Wondrous Love Is This

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Piano  $\text{♩} = 80$



1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul! O my soul! What  
2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to  
3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

6



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is  
God and to the Lamb, I will sing; To God and to the  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm

11



this! that Christ should come in bliss to bear the heav-y cross for my  
Lamb who is the great I Am, while mil-lions join the theme, I will  
free, I'll sing and joy-ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

16



soul, for my soul, to bear the heav-y cross for my soul!  
sing, I will sing; while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing!  
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on!

