

Greetings and Welcome

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Worship Stan & Ann Williams

We gather here in anticipation, seeking an encounter with our Holy God, who comes among us when we least expect it, who invites us to wrestle with our questions and doubts, who richly blesses us, and calls us each by name.

Let's worship God together!

"Take Up Your Cross"

Tell me good brother, are you feeling kind of low?
Your back's a-breaking and your legs are 'bout to go, I know.
Tell me good sister, can you take another step?
You wanna lay it down but it just ain't over yet, not until the Good Lord says so.
Don't let your heart be troubled, you know this road is glorybound.
So let's jump up, turn around, raise our hands and praise the Lord.

You gotta take up your cross and follow Jesus,
Calvary is the road that freed us,
He died and rose again to make the way.
Take up your cross and follow Jesus,
He guides our steps and He'll never leave us.
When we're done, we'll see him face to face.

Affirmation of Faith (from the Confession of 1967)

The reconciling work of Jesus initiates the new life in Christ. The new life does not release humanity from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, fear. They still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as they mature in love and faithfulness in their life with Christ, they live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others. Amen.

Response

"Glory to God" GLORIA (Taizé)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest! Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Genesis 32:22-31

22 The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. 24 Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. 26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." 27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." 28 Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." 29 Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. 30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." 31 The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

In the Ring

Hymn #307

"Fight the Good Fight"
DUKE STREET

Fight the good fight with all thy might; Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right; Lay hold on life, and it shall be Thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace, Lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face; Life with its way before us lies, Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Faint not nor fear, God's arms are near; God changeth not, and thou art dear; Only believe, and thou shalt see That Christ is all in all to thee.

Prayers of the People

After each petition, the Pastor will say, "...Lord, In Your Mercy," Respond with "Hear Our Prayer."

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn #419

"How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord" REPTON

How clear is our vocation, Lord,
When once we heed Your call:
To live according to Your word,
And daily learn, refreshed, restored,
That You are Lord of all
And will not let us fall.

But if, forgetful, we should find Your yoke is hard to bear, If worldly pressures fray the mind And love itself cannot unwind Its tangled skein of care: Our inward life repair.

In what You give us, Lord, to do,
Together or alone,
In old routines or ventures new,
May we not cease to look to YouThe cross You hung uponAll You endeavored done.

Benediction