

Welcome!

We are so happy to be here together! Here are a few guidelines for how we can worship safely together:

Please stay seated until the ushers come to guide you out of the Sanctuary. If you would like to make your offering while you are here today, there is an offering plate by the door. You may also continue to give using our website or by mailing a check.

In order to help keep everyone safe, please take your bulletins and any trash with you when you leave.

This service will be livestreamed on YouTube and a recording will be posted on social media for watching at a later time.



Giving Up Our Expectations

February 28, 2021

Discussion Questions

- Giving Up Freedoms, John 2:13-22 and Exodus 20:1-17

Have you ever considered that following rules requires us to give up some freedom? Rules show up in societies and communities for any number of reasons. What do we gain when we give up freedom to follow rules? Some are to help ensure our safety and health, others are to keep us from harming others. God has given His people rules over the centuries, do we look at those commandments any differently than other rules? Does how we follow rules or obey commandments matter?

As you ponder these things in preparation for Sunday, I would love to hear what God is saying to you. Call me at 256-353-6941 or email me at miriam@centralunitedmethodist.com.

Musical Gift
“Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing” Paxton

Welcome and Announcements William Penley

Opening Prayer

Hymn # 338 “Where He Leads Me”

I can hear my Savior calling, I can hear my Savior calling.
I can hear my Savior calling, “Take thy cross and follow, follow me.”

Refrain

Where he leads me I will follow, where he leads me I will follow,
Where he leads me I will follow; I'll go with him, with him all the way.

He will give me grace and glory, he will give me grace and glory,
He will give me grace and glory, and go with me, with me all the way.

Refrain



Love GOD



Love OTHERS



SERVE the World

616 Jackson Street

Decatur, Alabama 35601

(256) 353-6941

CUMC@CentralUnitedMethodist.com

<https://CentralUnitedMethodist.com>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/centralunitedmethodist

Prayers of the People

Leah South

**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 for ever. Amen.**

Special Music “There is A Higher Throne”

Arr. R. Grass

Bible Reading — Mark 8:31-38

Emma Hensley McMasters

—[Prayer]

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: “The Human One must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead.” He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him. Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: “Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God’s thoughts but human thoughts.”

After calling the crowd together with his disciples, Jesus said to them, “All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them. Why would

people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Human One will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Message — “Giving Up Our Expectations”

David Kross

Closing Hymn #415 “Take Up Thy Cross”

“Take up thy cross,” the Savior said, “if thou wouldst my disciple be; deny thyself, the world forsake, and humbly follow after me.”

Take up thy cross, let not its weight fill thy weak spirit with alarm;
His strength shall bear thy spirit up,
and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.

Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame, nor let thy foolish pride rebel;
Thy Lord for thee the cross endured, to save thy soul from death and hell.

Take up thy cross and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;
For only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Benediction

Musical Gift “Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain”

Peterson

Organist: Virginia Paul

“Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing” - Paxton c. 2011 Lorenz Publishing Co.

“There is A Higher Throne” - Arr. R. Thankyou Music (PRS) (admin. Worldwide by EMI CMG Pub)

“Come, Ye Faithful Raise the Strain” - Peterson c. 2011 Lorenz Publishing Co.

CCLI License # 2306531