

**AGAIN & AGAIN A LENTEN REFRAIN**



MORRISTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
WORSHIP GUIDE | LENT 2021  
ASH WEDNESDAY—MARCH 21, 2021

# INVITED

WRITTEN BY: REV. SARAH ARE | [SANCTIFIEDART.ORG](http://SANCTIFIEDART.ORG)

I like to imagine that each year,  
God invites me to a party.  
God drops me a note that says,  
“No gifts, casual dress. Come just as you are.”

I like to imagine that I am brave enough to go.  
I like to imagine that I decide that I am worth it. This was no pity invite,  
There is no obligatory postage. God wants me there.

So I get myself together,  
Smudged glasses, sensitive ego, wrinkled shirt, and all.  
I ring the doorbell a few minutes late on account of the fact that  
I lost my keys twice trying to get out the door, And I almost turn back to hide in my car,  
Afraid that I might embarrass myself over appetizers or small talk.  
But then God answers the door, And God says, “You’re here!” And I smile, because I am.

And with every step past that threshold, I know that God is cheering me on.  
It’s the pride of a parent watching their child take their first step.  
If I freeze, God is not disappointed. If I fall, God is not mad.  
But if I trust the invitation, If I move closer,  
I know, God celebrates.

Friends, you’ve got mail.  
It’s an invitation to dust off your shoes, To go deeper,  
To trust that you’re worth it,  
To lose your keys and your faith,  
And then to find them both, along with your worth. You are invited.  
We are invited.  
Again and again and again.  
This invitation is for you.

## DAWN

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Isaiah 58:1-2

Paper lace over watercolor

A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)



# WORSHIP LEADERS

REV. LUANA COOK SCOTT, SENIOR PASTOR



## LITURGISTS

Fabian Burgos  
Holly Dinneny  
Hayoung Kang  
Mary Manwaring  
Paola Marquez  
Kristin Moran  
Pearl Ontalan  
Kevin Powell  
Jacqueline Quinn  
Leslie Raff  
Jack Scharf  
Samantha Schuetz  
Sue Puma Vance

## MUSICIANS

Charlie Buck  
Kyler Coutts  
Sarah Michal  
Teresa Mitchell  
Jennifer Yang, Accompanist

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Jim Ciprich  
Audio Engineering  
Winifred Bunch  
Technical Producer  
Kevin Vance & Austin Puma  
Editing for TV/Cable  
Regina Heater  
Office Manager

## WORSHIP ENVIRONMENT/ALTAR FLOWERS THROUGH LENT

Barbara Dabinett, in loving memory of Jack O'Brien  
Virginia Lyttle, in loving memory of Alan Lyttle  
Kristi Miller, in honor of Bennett's birthday

## RESOURCES USED FOR WORSHIP

Prayers by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)  
Artwork noted by artist | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

The hymns printed in this worship guide are from the United Methodist Hymnal and The Faith We Sing. Formatting may appear slightly different to accommodate this printed guide.



## PRELUDE

### OPENING PRAYER

One: We are invited—

All: Into the story,

Into this place,

Into this hour of worship.

One: We are invited—

All: Into reflection,

Into community,

Into our own spiritual journeys.

One: We are invited—

All: The broken and bruised,

The hopeful, the new,

The faithful, the doubting,

The wondering, the waiting.

One: We are invited—

All: Because God so loved;

One: So listen, trust the invitation, and bring your whole self.

All: All are invited here.

### HYMN #340 Come Ye Sinners, Poor & Needy

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,  
weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you,  
full of pity, love, and power.

Refrain:

*I will arise and go to Jesus;  
he will embrace me with his arms;  
in the arms of my dear Savior,  
O there are ten thousand charms.*

Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome,  
God's free bounty glorify;  
true belief and true repentance,  
every grace that brings you nigh. (Refrain)

Come ye weary, heavy laden,  
lost and ruined by the fall;  
if you tarry till you're better,  
you will never come at all. (Refrain)

Let not conscience make you linger,  
nor of fitness fondly dream;  
all the fitness he requireth  
is to feel your need of him. (Refrain)

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:1-16 | Isaiah 58:1-12

### HYMN #2138 Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes Tune: **EBENEZER**

Sunday's palms are Wednesday's ashes  
as another Lent begins;  
thus we kneel before our Maker  
in contrition for our sins.  
We have marred baptismal pledges,  
in rebellion gone astray;  
now, returning, seek forgiveness;  
Grant us pardon, God, this day!

We are hasty to judge others,  
blind to proof of human need;  
and our lack of understanding  
demonstrates our inner greed;  
we have wasted earth's resources;  
want and suffering we've ignored;  
come and cleanse us, then restore us;  
make new hearts within us, Lord!

We have failed to love our neighbors,  
their offences to forgive,  
have not listened to their troubles,  
nor have cared just how they live,  
we are jealous, proud, impatient,  
loving over-much our things;  
may the yielding of our failings  
be our Lenten offerings.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: We know that you are near,  
For you are always here, gathered among us, just a breath away.  
And despite knowing your nearness, we still stumble over ourselves, unsure of how to pray.

**All: Bring our hearts into the room.**

One: So often we talk to you like a stranger,  
Praying prayers of small talk about the weather and surface level concerns.  
We keep genuine fear and doubt tucked into corners, out of sight, out of mind.

**All: Bring our hearts into the room.**

One: And so often we try to think our way to you,  
As if we could use logic or our minds alone to explain your great unknown.  
We forget what we knew as children; we forget how to feel our way to you.

**All: Bring our hearts into the room.**

One: And too regularly, we limit our experience of you to one hour a Sunday,  
Missing your constant invitation into the holiness all around us.  
Forgive us. Guide us.

**All: Bring our hearts into the room.**

One: We are here, God. We want to begin again.

**All: Bring our hearts into the room. Amen.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Friends, whether you are standing at the door of a deeper faith journey,  
Unsure of what comes next,  
Or running your way through that threshold,  
You are claimed, forgiven, and loved by God.

All: Again and again, we are forgiven.

Again and again, we are loved.

Again and again, we are invited in.

One: Thanks be to God for a love like that.

All: Amen.

## SERMON

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in an inviting God  
Who invites the poor and the sick,  
The outcast and the lonely,  
The immigrant and the refugee,  
The awkward and the abrasive,  
The young and the innocent.  
We believe God invites the best and the worst—  
In all of us.

We believe God invites us to:

A life of faith,

A crowded table,

A messy church,

A deeper truth,

A resilient joy,

A place to belong,

A family among strangers,

A world that is just,

And a love that knows no bounds.

We believe this invitation exists for all people.

We believe this invitation exists for us.

And when we miss the call or ignore the invite,

We believe that God invites us again.

Thanks be to God for that invitational Spirit. Amen.

## HYMN #269 Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days | Tune: **AMAZING GRACE**

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.

### **BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

### **INVITED IN**

by Rev. Lauren Wright-Pittman

Inspired by Matthew 6:1-21

Hand-carved block with oil-based ink on paper

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# HYMNNS



# 340 Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

1. Come, ye sin - ners, poor and need - y, weak and  
 2. Come, ye thirst - y, come, and wel - come, God's free  
 3. Come ye wea - ry, hea - vy lad - en, lost and  
 4. Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of

wound - ed, sick and sore; Je - sus read - y  
 boun - ty glo - ri - fy; true be - lief and  
 ruin - ed by the fall; if you tar - ry  
 fit - ness fond - ly dream; all the fit - ness

stands to save you, full of pit - y, love, and power.  
 true re - pen - tance, ev - ery grace that brings you nigh.  
 till you're bet - ter, you will nev - er come at all.  
 he re - quir - eth is to feel your need of him.

*Refrain*

I will a - rise and go to Je - sus;

WORDS: Joseph Hart, 1759  
 MUSIC: *The Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1987  
 Harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

RESTORATION  
 87.87 with Refrain  
 Alt. tune: BEACH SPRING

INVITATION

he will embrace me with his arms; in the arms of  
my dear Sav - ior, O there are ten thou - sand charms.

The musical score is written in a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a 2/4 time signature. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "he will embrace me with his arms; in the arms of my dear Sav - ior, O there are ten thou - sand charms." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords that support the vocal melody.

# Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes

The musical score is written in 12/8 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

Sun-day's palms are Wednes-day's ash - es as an - oth - er Lent be - gins;  
 We have failed to love out neigh - bors, their of - fenc - es to for - give,  
 We are hast - y to judge oth - ers, blind to proof of hu - man need;

5  
 thus we kneel be - fore our Mak - er in con - tri - tion for our sins.  
 have not lis - tened to their trou - bles, nor have cared just how they live,  
 and our lack of un - der stand - ing dem - on - strates our in - ner greed;

9  
 We have marred bap - tis - mal pledg - es, in re - bel - lion gone a - stray;  
 we are jeal - ous, proud, im - pa - tient, lov - ing o - ver - much our things;  
 we have wast - ed earth's re - sourc - es; want and suf - f'ring we've ig - nored;

13  
 now, re - turn - ing, seek for - give - ness; grant us par - don, God, this day!  
 may the yield - ing of our fail - ings be our Lent - en of - fer - ings.  
 come and cleanse us, then re - store us; make new hearts with - in us, Lord!

WORDS: Rae E. Whitney, 1982  
 MUSIC: Thomas J. Williams, 1890

EBENEZER  
 87.87 D

# Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Lord, who through - out these for - ty days for  
 As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, and  
 As thou didst hun - ger bear, and thirst, so  
 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and  
 A - bide with us, that so, this life of

5

us didst fast and pray, teach us with thee to  
 didst the vic - tory win, O give us strength in  
 teach us, gra - cious Lord, to die to self, and  
 through thy pas - sion - tide, yea, ev - er - more in  
 suf - fring o - ver past, an Eas - ter of un -

11

mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.  
 thee to fight, in thee to con - quer sin.  
 chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.  
 life and death, Je - sus, with us a - bide.  
 end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

WORDS: Claudia F. Hernaman, 1873 (Matt. 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13)  
 MUSIC: 19th cent. USA melody; harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

AMAZING GRACE  
 CM

# Morristown UMC's Statement of Welcome

YOU are a child of God, beautiful and unique, and you are welcome here. We don't welcome you here to change or tolerate you, we welcome you here to celebrate you. You are welcome here because...

We believe that all people are children of God and are of sacred worth, and we welcome you to Morristown UMC!

We believe our lives have been transformed by choosing to follow Jesus Christ and His teachings.

We welcome all who seek Christ and a transformed life!

We believe the Bible is God's inspired Word. We use our experience, our intellect, and our traditions to interpret the scriptures.

We believe sexuality is God's gift to humanity. We recognize gender as a fluid concept, and human sexuality as a spectrum. We welcome all expressions of both. We welcome all who are in the process of discerning or transitioning.

We believe in the full rights of LGBTQIA+ Persons in the life of the church.

We believe in God's grace. We are not perfect. So, we welcome all who are imperfect and are a work in progress, seeking to live a redeemed life.

We believe we are citizens of the kingdom\* of God which has no borders. Your birth certificate is of no importance to us. Therefore, we welcome those born of any nation, who speak any language, who have any color skin.

We believe in family. We welcome ALL families, regardless of composition, recognizing that they may be made up of a single individual or many individuals. We welcome ALL persons into our church family where we endeavor to support and encourage each other in this life's journey.

We believe all children should be safe, whether at the border or in Sunday School. We have intentionally implemented safe sanctuary policies to ensure the safety of children at Morristown UMC. All children are welcomed, cherished, and protected here.

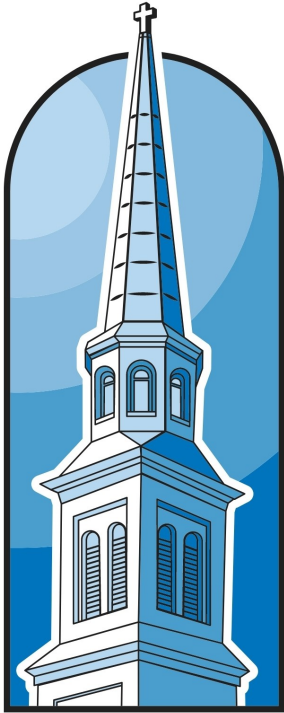
We believe in the diversity of God's creation, and we celebrate self-expression. So we welcome those who dress casually or formally, rugged or fancy, have not a hair out of place or not a hair on their head, are inked, pierced, or neither.

We believe in the power of God's love and we believe...in you.

Welcome! Welcome! We hope you will make your home with us.

*\*This is NOT a typo*

*This welcome statement was adopted by the Church Council on December 3, 2019.*



Morristown United Methodist Church  
50 S. Park Place | Morristown, NJ 07960 | 973-538-2132  
mumc@morristownumc.org  
www.morristownumc.org

