



CLIFF AVENUE UNITED CHURCH

www.cliffavechurch.com

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Minister: Rev. Jennifer Goddard-Sheppard

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Church office hours: 1 – 5 pm Tuesday through Friday

August 30, 2020

We sing of scripture and worship

Gathering Music – “Take My Life and Let It Be”

VU 506

Arranged and performed by HYMNCHARTS

(Lyrics included in video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9speOjVQ3ZA>

Call to Worship

These summer months offer us much-needed time for rest and renewal. Let us come to this time of worship with the same desire, to find rest and renewal for our souls. Let us come as the sun shines, as the warm rains fall, as the earth ripens, that we might praise God together.

Opening Prayer and Prayer of Unburdening

Gracious God, who creates, sustains and redeems all life, we come seeking your disturbing presence and comforting peace. We praise you for the joy of being your people. May your Spirit be with us and move within us, in this time of worship. Give us hearts that hear your Word and minds that are open to the transforming power of your love Amen. (*Silence/Light your candle*). God of great abundance, we confess that we do not always use your gifts to the fullest. We hoard them. Or we waste them. Or we abuse them. Forgive us. Restore us. Renew us. Amen

Opening Hymn "Take Up Your Cross"

Performed by the composer – David Haas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkJRrhZyR3I>

Refrain: If you lose your life for my sake, you will find it;
If you want to save your life, let it go.
Take up your cross, deny yourself;
Come follow me, follow me.

How will you profit by gaining the world
while you forfeit all of your life?
What will you give in return?
What will you give in return?

Before I return in glory,
I will give you the gift of my love;
You will never taste death.
You will never taste death.

Scripture Reading Matthew 16:21-28

<https://www.cliffavechurch.com/service-bulletins/pages/sunday-service-recordings>

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

Scripture response: For the Living Word
We sing Praise!

Reflection

Rev. Jen

<https://www.cliffavechurch.com/service-bulletins/pages/sunday-service-recordings>

Musical Reflection “We Will Take What You Offer”

MV 196

Words and Music by John L. Bell – 1998

Performed by the Wild Goose Worship Group

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oInB7yubJKU>

We will take what you offer, we will live by your word;
We will love one another and be led by you Lord.

Prayers of the People

<https://www.cliffavechurch.com/service-bulletins/pages/sunday-service-recordings>

The Disciples Prayer (The Lord’s Prayer)

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us
our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against
us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from
evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.

Sending Forth Go into the world prepared to catch a
glimpse of Jesus in your midst, prepared to let others
catch a glimpse of Jesus in you.

The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you.

Closing Hymn “I Have Decided”

(performed by The Daniel Doss Band – 2012)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCbe4MSNom0>

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" is a Christian hymn originating from India. The lyrics are based on the last words of a man in Assam, north-east India, who along with his family was converted to Christianity in the middle of the 19th century through the efforts of a Welsh missionary. Called to renounce his faith by the village chief, the convert declared, "I have decided to follow Jesus." In response to threats to his family, he continued, "Though no one joins me, still I will follow." His wife was killed, and he was executed while singing, "The cross before me, the world behind me." This display of faith is reported to have led to the conversion of the chief and others in the village.

The formation of these words into a hymn is attributed to the Indian missionary Sadhu Sundar Singh.

The melody is also Indian and entitled "Assam" after the region where the text originated.