

**The United Methodist Church at Absecon**

100 Pitney Rd // Absecon, NJ 08201

609.641.1265 // abseconumc.com

abseconumc@comcast.net

**The Reverend David L. Ledford III, Pastor**

ReverendDaveLedford@gmail.com

**Priscilla Cunningham,  
Director of Music and Organist**



---

# Ash Wednesday Worship

February 14, 2024

**Prelude**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Gilbert M. Martin

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Come, friends, and join us for a season of repentance, prayer, fasting, discernment and self-knowledge

**People: From dust we came, and to dust we shall return.**

## Hymn

## Nearer My God to Thee

(verses 1, 2, and 5)

1. Near - er, my God, to thee, near - er to thee!  
 2. Though like the wan - der - er, the sun gone down,  
 3. There let the way ap - pear, steps un - to heaven;  
 4. Then, with my wak - ing thoughts bright with thy praise,  
 5. Or if, on joy - ful wing cleav - ing the sky,

E'en though it be a cross that rais - eth me,  
 dark - ness be o - ver me, my rest a stone;  
 all that thou send - est me, in mer - cy given;  
 out of my ston - y griefs Beth - el I'll raise;  
 sun, moon, and stars for - got, up - ward I fly,

still all my song shall be, near - er, my God, to thee;  
 yet in my dreams I'd be near - er, my God, to thee;  
 an - gels to beck - on me near - er, my God, to thee;  
 so by my woes to be near - er, my God, to thee;  
 still all my song shall be, near - er, my God, to thee;

near - er, my God, to thee, near - er to thee!

## Opening Prayer

**Bless the Lord, my soul, and praise God's holy name! I will not forget any of God's benefits. Oh God, You forgive our iniquities, You heal our diseases, You redeem our lives from the pit. Lord, may You crown us all with Your glory, steadfast love and mercy. Renew our lives throughout these forty days and grant us goodness as long as we live.**

## Pastoral Prayer

## The Lord's Prayer

## Hymn

## Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

1. Je - sus, keep me near the cross; there a pre-cious foun-tain,  
 2. Near the cross, a trem-bling soul, love and mer-cy found me;  
 3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
 4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop-ing, trust-ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal-ing stream, flows from Cal-vary's moun-tain.  
 there the bright and morn-ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be-yond the riv - er.

### *Refrain*

In the cross, in the cross, be my glo - ry ev - er,

till my rap - tured soul shall find rest be-yond the riv - er.

**Senior Choir**

Greater Love Hath No Man

Carl Mueller

**Psalter**

Psalm 34

**Response**

Bless His Holy Name

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
And all that is within me, Bless His holy name *(repeat)*

He has done great things, He has done great things,  
He has done great things, Bless His holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul  
And all that is within me, Bless His holy name.

**Scripture Lesson**

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

... we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Message**

*Forty Days and Forty Nights*

**Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline**

**Thanksgiving Over the Ashes**

**Imposition of Ashes**

**Prayers of Confession**

**Words of Assurance and Pardon**

**Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God**

**Offertory**

Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone?

Dorothy Southridge

**\*Offertory Hymn**

Lift High the Cross

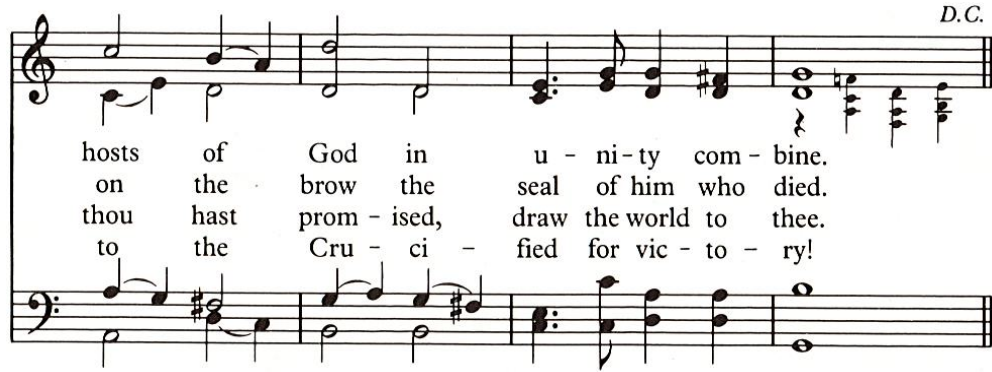
(verse 1)

Musical notation for the first line of the hymn. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim".

Musical notation for the second line of the hymn. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "till all the world a-dore his sa-cred name." The word "Fine" is written above the end of the staff.

Musical notation for the "Harmony" section. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "1. Come, Chris-tians, fol-low this tri-um-phant sign. The 2. Each new-born ser-vant of the Cru-ci-fied bears 3. O Lord, once lift-ed on the glo-rious tree, as 4. So shall our song of tri-umph ev-er be: Praise".

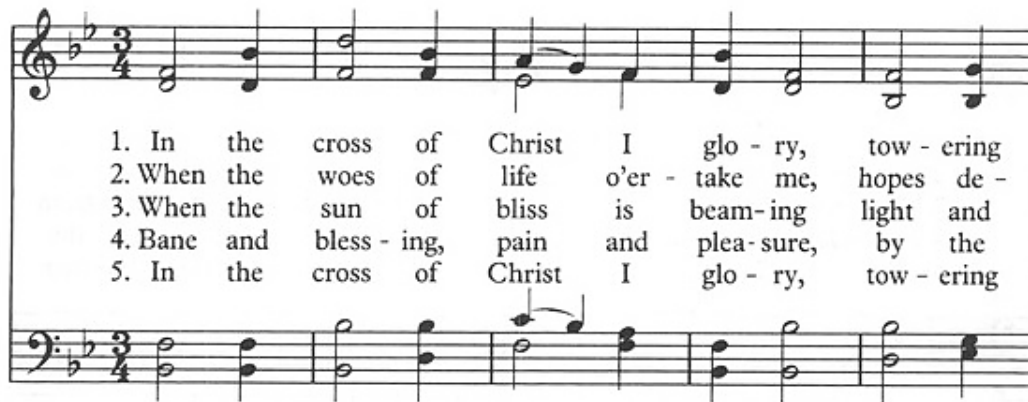
D.C.



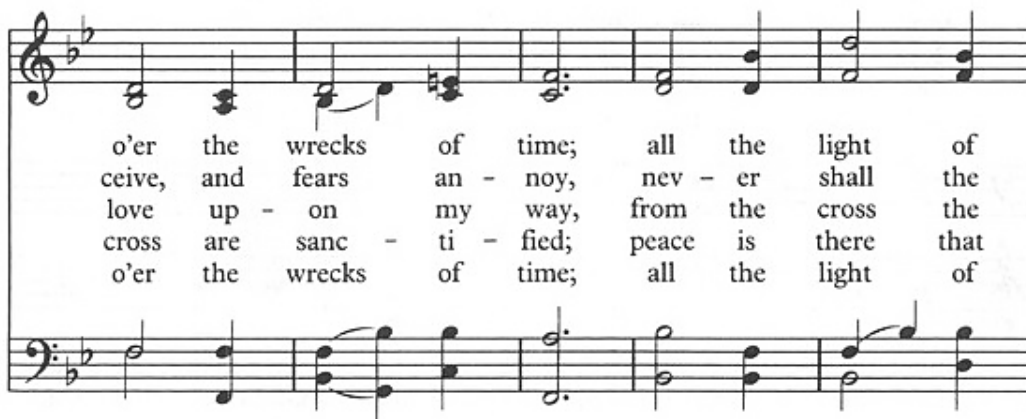
hosts of God in u - ni - ty com - bine.  
 on the brow the seal of him who died.  
 thou hast prom - ised, draw the world to thee.  
 to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

## Hymn

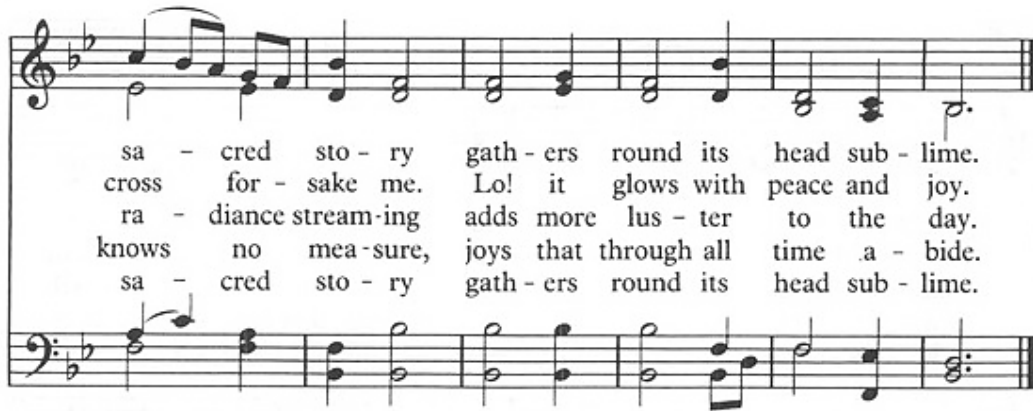
## In the Cross of Christ I Glory

*(verses 1, 2, and 5)*


1. In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow - ering  
 2. When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
 3. When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
 4. Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the  
 5. In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow - ering



o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of  
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
 love up - on my way, from the cross the  
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that  
 o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me. Lo! it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.  
sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall

J. S. Bach

*This Lent, I want to give up* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_