

"TAKE UP YOUR CROSS . . ."

A Service of Christian Worship Led  
by The Middler Class

Prelude

Call to Worship . . . . . Mark Byrd and Larry Hovis  
Selections from Exodus 3 and 4

\*Hymn #406 . . . . . Teach Me, O Lord, I Pray

\*Invocation . . . . . Caleb Oladipo

\*A Litany of Thankfulness . . . . . Alan Wilder

Leader: On the way to the cross we have stopped by here to  
study the scripture which is profitable for teaching--

People: Teach us Lord!

Leader: For reproof--

People: Reprove us Lord!

Leader: For correction--

People: Correct us Lord!

Leader: And for training in righteousness--

People: Train us Lord, that we might be adequate,  
equipped for every good work.

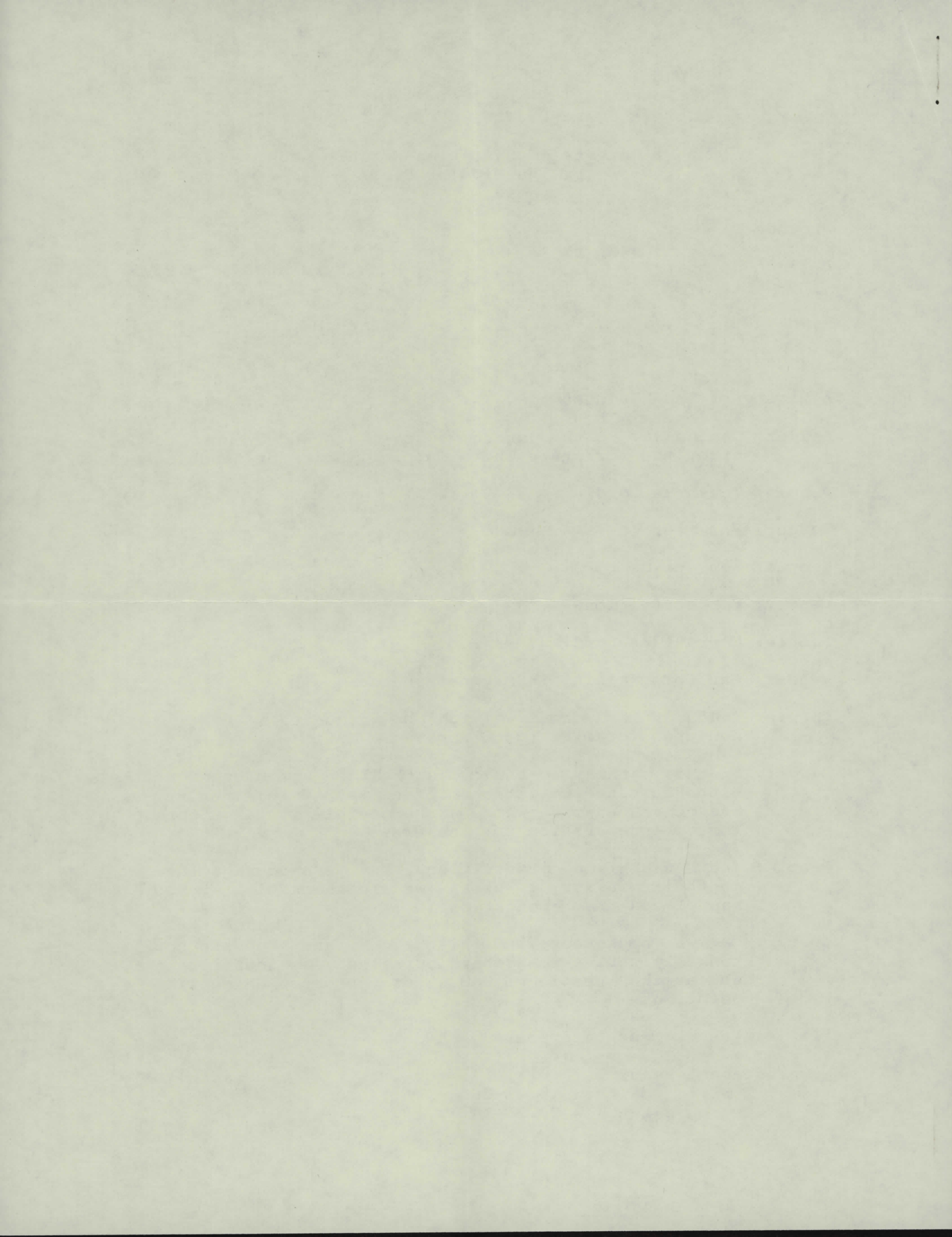
Leader: On this pathway to the cross the Lord has blessed us  
with dedicated Christian professors, administrators,  
and other persons who are responsible in large part  
for our preparation for the cross.

People: Their task is a difficult one, but we encourage them  
in their ministry to us and we are thankful that God  
has placed them amongst us.

Leader: May we, professors, administrators, and students con-  
tinually strive to prepare ourselves, as individuals  
and as the people of God, for the cross which lies  
before us.

People: Yes, Let us be prepared. Amen!

New Testament Reading . . . . . Kathy Daly  
Matthew 16:21-26  
Matthew 20:20-28



Meditation . . . "Our Crown Has Thorns?!" . . . Carol Kammerdiener  
Special Music . . . . . Middler Ensemble  
Meditation . . . "The One By Our Side . . ." . . . Alan Wilder  
\*Litany of Confession/Assurance of Pardon . . . . Sandie Gravett

Leader: God, our Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer, we say  
with the people Israel:

People: 'All that the Lord has spoken, we will do'

Leader: And with Joshua,

People: 'As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord'

Leader: In the voice of Isaiah, we answer your call,

People: 'Here I am! Send me'

Leader: And we respond to the question of Jesus with Peter,  
saying:

People: 'You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.'

Leader: But we confess, God, that we, too, say as Moses:

People: 'Who am I that I should Go?'

Leader: Or use Jeremiah's excuse

People: 'I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.'

Leader: With James and John we ask,

People: 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at  
your left, in your Glory.'

Leader: Or on our Road of Service, Stop, like Peter, to say,

People: 'Lo, we have left everything and followed you.  
What then shall we have?'

Leader: Forgive us, God, for neglecting your work, our call,

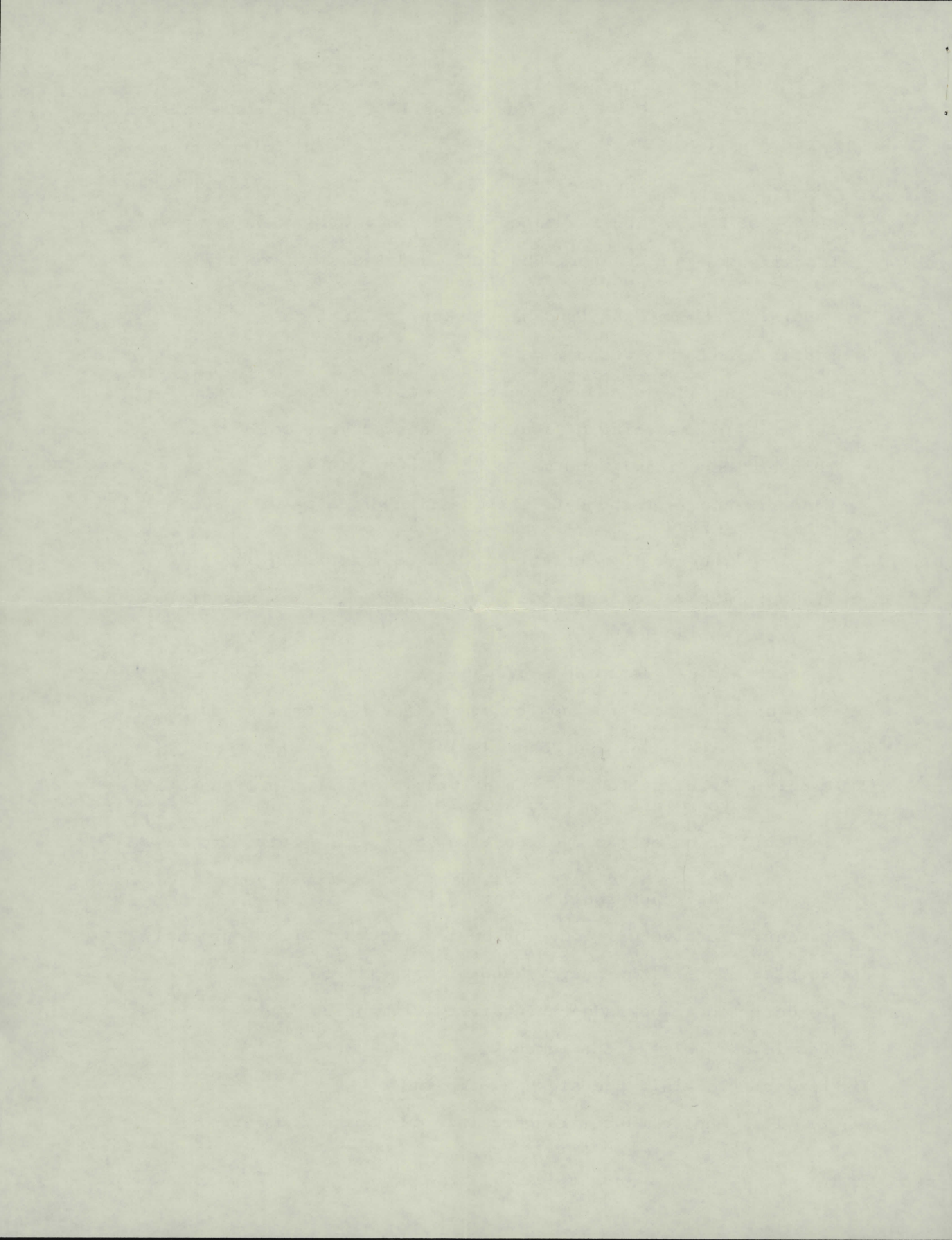
People: To see the hungry, and give them food.

Leader: To acknowledge the thirsty with drink

People: To clothe the naked

Leader: To visit the sick and imprisoned

People: And to take strangers into our homes and lives.



Leader: We confess, God, our oversights, shortcomings, and intentional omissions. Help, us, your children,

People: To hear your voice, and gladly answer your call.

Leader: To give our lives to you

People: To serve your church

Leader: Deal gently with our fears, Lord,

People: The hesitation of uncertainty

Leader: The darkness of the unknown

People: The lack of confidence in our own capacity.

Leader: And turn it all to trust in you.

All: AMEN.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: All who confess that Jesus is the Son of God,  
God abides in them, and they in God.

People: So we know and believe the love God had for us.  
God is love, and we who abide in love abide in God,  
And God abides in us.

\*Benediction . . . . . Sam Askew

Postlude

\*congregation standing

