

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is a Stranger”
Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 21, 2023

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: At the presence of God, we rejoice:

Many: glorifying the One who is Parent of all orphans.

One: In the presence of Jesus Christ, we listen:

Many: to the Voice who calls us to humbly serve others.

One: Through the presence of the Holy Spirit, we speak:

Many: making God's love known to the world-forsaken in our midst.

*OPENING SONG

“Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”

#323

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Breath of God, renew us in this time of worship. Help us set aside thoughts that trouble us. Help us pause the challenges of the world that taunt us. Pour your Spirit within each one of us, that we may be re-spirited in this hour by your power and your grace. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

God of glory: we are so busy watching the skies for signs of your presence that we forget to look around to see those we can serve in your name. We are so intent on finding just the right way to tell someone off, that we forget the words of reconciliation you have taught to us. We are so convinced we can figure out your schedule that we forget to open ourselves to the presence of your Spirit within us. Mighty Source of Our Lives, forgive us for all that we have done to others. Fill us with the wisdom to resist evil in our lives and strengthen us in that faith which is given to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Beloved, do not be surprised. Our God is gracious to all, restoring us to new life.

Many: This is the good news which is for us, and for everyone we will meet in the days to come. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

John 17:1-11

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We trust in God, the Creator Spirit who moved upon the face of the deep at the beginning of creation, who created all that is, and who spoke through the prophets of old.

We trust in Jesus into whom God's spirit was poured in fullness and in power, that the whole creation might be restored and unified; and who promised that the Spirit would come and fill the faithful with power to witness to the mighty love of God.

We wait on that Spirit today with longing hearts, seeking to be empowered to witness to God's love, with fresh words and courageous actions of love and hope.

Glory be to God – Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit – now and always. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world with-out end. A-men, A-men.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Acts 1:6-14

read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE

“Mind Your Own Business!”

Pastor Chris

ASCENSION SONG

“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

#322

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER (with debts/debtors)

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Words #44

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(prayed together)

Loving God, you pour out your grace upon us without reservation; help us to be as gracious and generous with our gifts and resources, so others might know your hope, your healing, your presence in their lives. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

“How Firm a Foundation”

#411

**GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST
POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), Words of Assurance, and Offering Prayer of Dedication are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer of Dedication is by Leigh Ann Shaw from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2023* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is from <https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au>

Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
Lector:	Shelly TerHark
Organist:	Vicki Merchlewitz
May Radio Sponsor:	Marilyn Deal

Birthdays: May: 22- Ginny Buchanan, Mick Schlievert; 23-Aaron Burtnett; 25-Marge Person; 26-Sandra Williams; 27-Greta Grindberg

Today, May 21: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

Tuesday, May 23: 9:30-11am. -Pastor at Feed Mill

Thursday, May 25: Pastor at Clergy Cluster in Humboldt

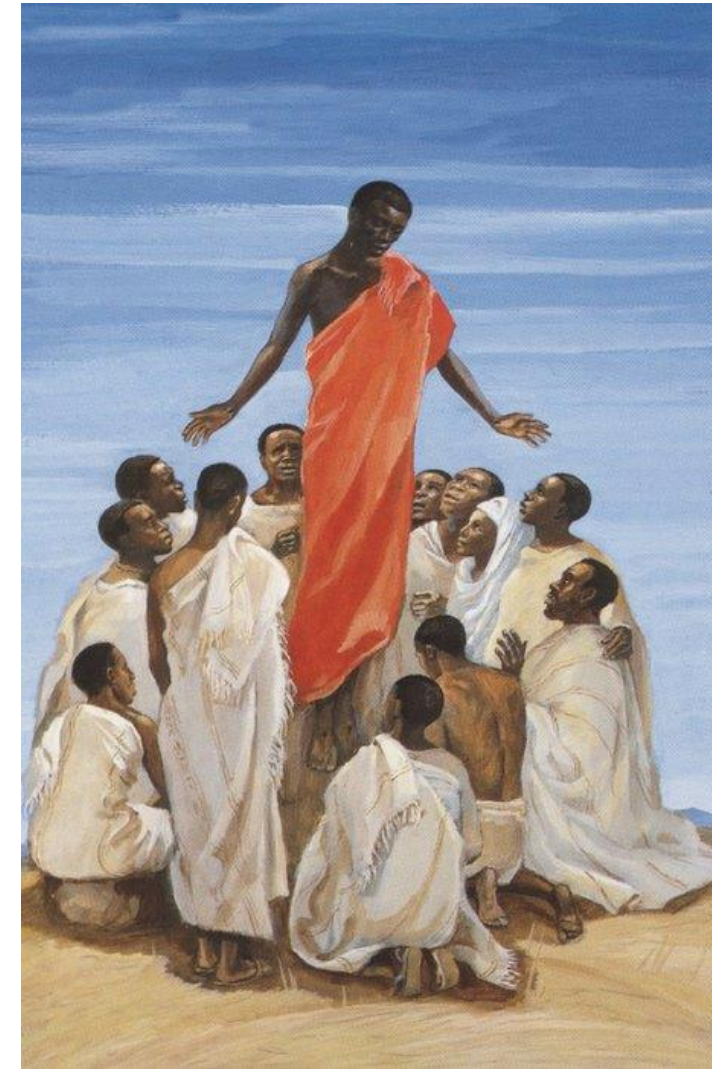
Sunday, May 26: 10:00 am. – Worship
Coffee
Newsletter Articles due

Pilgrim Heights Summer Camp flyer is on the bulletin board.

Carter Center Report to donors is on the table in the parlor.

Did you know we are starting to make plans for our 165th Anniversary of our Church? We will be celebrating by having a Barbeque Pork meal as a Fundraiser for the Care Team on Wednesday, June 21 from 5-7pm. There will be a free will offering. More information to come.

Our Daily Bread June/July/ August devotional is available on the cart in the entry way to the Education/Office/Fellowship Hall building.



The Ascension

Artist: Jesus Mafa, 1973