

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2023

8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Prelude

Crown Him with Many Crowns – Joel Raney

Call to Worship

Blessed be the name of the Lord

from this time on and for evermore.

From the rising of the sun to its setting

the name of the Lord is to be praised

Opening Hymn 159 - Lift High the Cross**

(Refrain) Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come Christians, follow this triumphant sign. The hosts of God in unity combine. (Refrain)

Each newborn servant of the Crucified bears on the brow the seal of him who died. (Refrain)

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou has promised, draw the world to thee. (Refrain)

So shall our song of triumph ever be: Praise to the Crucified for victory! (Refrain)

Invocation

O God, in mystery and silence you are present in our lives, bringing new life out of destruction, hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty. We thank you that you do not leave us alone but labor to make us whole. Help us to perceive your unseen hand in the unfolding of our lives, and to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit, that we may know the joy you give your people. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages.

Anthem

8:30 - Worthy Is the Lamb that was Slain - John W. Peterson

(please join singing on the director's cue)

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain,

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain,

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain,

to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength,

honor and glory and blessing!

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb,

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain,

Worthy is the Lamb!

11:00 - Holding on to You - H. Dean Wagner

There's a truth I know from long, long ago; words I learned when young and can't let go.

God's promise made, whatever the cost, to give hope to a people who seemed so lost.

Now I've felt the same, so I keep them close; written on my heart when I need them most.

This is me, God, holding on to you.

*You said, "For I know the plans I have for you, plans for good, for a future that is true;
plans full of hope of a brand new life for you.
This is me, child, holding on to you.*

*So I hold your words close where I can see and remember all that you mean to me.
These words of peace and transforming pow'r, they lift me up in my darkest hour;
'Cause they give me hope when I cannot see, that you're still at work and have plans for me. They say
why, God, I'm holding on to you.*

*When I feel little and broken, forgotten, left behind,
You tell me I'm still good in your heart and mind.
You say I'm part of a family you chose long ago.
So loved no matter what we do, You won't let go.*

*You know the plans you have for me, plans for good, for a future that is real;
Plans full of peace, no matter what I feel, that's you, God, holding on to me.
This is me, God, holding on to you.*

God's Word for Young Disciples (Children may leave for Children's Worship. They may be picked up in Asbury Hall following the service.)

Scripture Reading

Phil 4:6, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Phil 4:6 - Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 - For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gloria Patri (sung)**

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 without end. Amen.

Sermon

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Hymn of Response No. 496 – Sweet Hour of Prayer

*Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Father's throne
make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!*

*Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
the joys I feel, the bliss I share
of those whose anxious spirits burn
with strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place
where God my Savior shows his face,
and gladly take my station there,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!*

*Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
thy wings shall my petition bear
to him whose truth and faithfulness
engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since he bids me seek his face,
believe his word, and trust his grace,
I'll cast on him my every care,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!*

Recognition of Graduates (11:00)

Mark Thomas Appleby
Collin Jack Bailey
Ava Joyce Sabattuci
Gabrielle Grace Schmidt

Teddy Van Sweringen
Dallas Duane Wagner
Owen Burke Wallace

Offertory

8:30 - Be Thou My Vision - Raymond Haan

11:00 - Vision - H. Dean Wagner

Doxology**

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

Prayers of the People/The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith

Closing Hymn 327** - *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne,
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end,
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.

Benediction and Choral Response - *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* - Peter Lutkin

Postlude - *Crown Imperial March* - William Walton



The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and given

In loving memory of Tara Jackson by her parents, Tom and Kathy Jackson;
In loving memory of her parents, Robert and Edna Keyser by Millie Keyser and Dale Gilbert.

Service Music: 8:30 Chancel Choir; **11:00** Epworth Choir, Epworth Ringers, **Both:** Kim Yoak - soloist,
Music: One License A-731491

NEXT STEPS

To Everything a Season

Who among us actually likes change?

Ecclesiastes 3:2 – many times in our lives come and go

Keep the Change

Revelation 21:5 – God’s nature is to make things new, to create change

Change can be disorienting, painful, and yet hopeful

Questions for Reflection: How do I personally deal with change? How might I refocus myself from the things that are changing to the possibilities that are opening up through change?

Question for Discussion: When have you experienced a change that ended up differently that you expected? How might God’s hand have been involved?

Memory Verse: **Revelation 21:5a** - *And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’*

Readings for this Week: 1 Corinthians 13, Acts 2

CHURCH NOTES

Senior Reception: Please join us for a reception for our graduates which will take place following the 11:00 worship service.

Attention VBS Teachers and Helpers: Make up sessions for those who were unable to attend our required training are today after the 11:00 a.m. service or Sunday, May 28 after the service. There will be a light meal served. Anyone needing Safe Sanctuary training or recertifying will do so after the session.

Pentecost Sunday: Remember our tradition of bringing in a potted red geranium to place in the chancel area on Pentecost which will be next Sunday, May 28. The flowers are then planted around the church building.

Items For VBS: Thanks to all who have been bringing in the items from the Giving Board in the Breezeway. This helps with VBS and our children's programs. All items are due May 28.

Golf Outing: The 17th Walter "Bud" Mills Golf outing, the major fundraising event for the Epworth Choir Tour, will be held at Brookledge Golf Club on June 24th, at 1:30. There will be prizes, raffle baskets, and dinner. You may also attend just the dinner (contact Dean.) Putt-Putt will be available at Downview from 4:30-6 for a reduced price of \$4 (mention the golf outing.) We are also seeking sponsors for holes, carts, gifts, and baskets. Brochures are available at the Welcome Center with more information or you may contact Dean Wagner, or Jim Boss.

Good Neighbors is requesting the following: shampoo, shaving cream, toothpaste, deodorant, paper towels, bathroom tissue, laundry and dish soaps, spaghetti sauce, ramen noodles, tomato sauce, and salad dressing.

Christmas Shoeboxes: Acts of Grace, in conjunction with the Epworth Youth Group, are collecting items each month in an effort to pack 100 shoeboxes. The items for May are: small stuffed animals, combs, and toy cars (Matchbox type.)

Blessing Box: We currently have a large supply of canned good, but are in need of the following: ramen noodles, individual oatmeal packets, flavored rice/ noodle packets, canned tuna/ canned chicken, pasta, pasta sauce, individual fruit cups, travel sized toothpaste, toothbrushes, travel sized body wash, travel sized shampoo.

Love Offering: Both Pastor Mike and Pastor Karol's last day at First Church will be Sunday, June 25. A Love Offering will be taken for both between now and June 18, and will be given to them that day. You may place your Love Offering (made out to First Church, but marked Pastor Mike or Pastor Karol, in separate envelopes if possible) in the offering plate, or you may mail it to the church office to the attention of Nancy Yeager. We will celebrate their service, express our gratitude, and say goodbye to both Pastors Mike and Karol with cookies and lemonade on the lawn after the service on June 25.

Vacation Bible School: VBS Registration will end on May 26. To register go to <http://firstchurchcf.mycokesburyvbs.com> or use the QR code on the info available at the Welcome Center. Programs for children aged 3 (by 9/30/2023) through 6th grade are available June 29-23 from 9:00 a.m. – noon. Cost is \$10.00 per child. Extreme is an afternoon extension program for grades 1 – 6. Cost \$60.00. It is currently full but you may request to be on a waiting list.

1st Church Feeds: Our monthly food distribution is now on the 3rd Saturday of each month. At our monthly distribution, we give out more than food. We are often able to get items like soap, paper towels, and pet food from the Food Bank. However, personal hygiene items, especially bladder control products for men and women (such as Poise pads or disposable underwear) are frequently requested by our clients but are rarely available from the Food Bank. Currently we have some products for women, but we could use donations of products for men. We would love to be able to offer these products on a regular basis.

We are requesting donations of these products. Please drop off items in the bin marked First Church Feeds behind the welcome center. And as always, monetary donations are appreciated as well. THANK YOU!

Church Square Community Garden: Planting will take place Saturday, May 27, at 11:00 (weather permitting). We can use many helping hands with planting the garden, weeding and watering it throughout the growing season. If you have any questions or are interested in helping, please contact Millie Keyser at 330-945-4858 or millie.keyser@sbcglobal.net. Each year, the produce from the garden has gone to Good Neighbors and other community organizations.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
MAY 21, 2023**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller & Mike Ward

HOSPITALIZED:

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Kathy & Scott Adie Bob Ahonen Debbie Amundsen Shirley Asher Mary Ellen Atwood Behrman family Mark & Cindy Blaser Robert Boyd Larry Brimlow	Don Corbett Jim Evans Jean Finnegan Rose Gregory Mary Griest Joyce Haberkost Jim Henes Phil Hennen Marcia Liikala	Lee Minier Pat Park Kathi Sawyer Todd Schneider Cynthia Schrier Christina Shaw Michael Taucher Ken Tunstall
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DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

Kathy Kuzas and family on the death of her mother-in-law, member Doris Kuzas on 5/15.