

Seventh Sunday of Easter

10:30 a.m.

May 12, 2024

GATHERING

The people of God come together in the Lord's name

Prelude - Ring Praises - Sallie Lloyd

Call to Worship

Risen with Christ, let us seek the Spirit.

Our life is hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ, our Life, appears,

We shall appear with him in glory! Alleluia!

Opening Hymn 98 - To God Be the Glory**

To God be the glory, great things he hath done!

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the lifegate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
(Refrain)

3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.
(Refrain)

Invocation

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son, Jesus Christ, with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven. Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

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

Scripture Reading - Psalm 1

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. Amen.

Children's Anthem - *With the Help of the Spirit of the Lord* - Jane Southwick Cool

God's Word for Young Disciples

Anthem - *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* - Camp Kirkland

Scripture Reading - Acts 1: 15-17; 21-26

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

Sermon – How Far We Have Come

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Hymn of Response 162** - Alleluia, Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia!

Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:

sing to God a hymn of gladness,

sing to God a hymn of praise.

He, who on the cross a victim

for the world's salvation bled,

Jesus Christ, the King of glory,

now is risen from the dead.

2 Now the iron bars are broken,

Christ from death to life is born,

glorious life, and life immortal,

on the holy Easter morn.

Christ has triumphed, and we conquer

by His mighty enterprise;

we with Him to life eternal

by His resurrection rise.

3 Christ is risen, Christ, the first-fruits

of the holy harvest field,

which will all its full abundance

at His second coming yield.

Then the golden ears of harvest

will their heads before Him wave,

ripened by His glorious sunshine

*from the furrows of the grave.
4 Christ is risen, we are risen!
Shed upon us heav'nly grace,
rain and dew and gleams of glory
from the brightness of Thy face,
that we, with our hearts in heaven,
here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with Thee.*

*5 Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory be to God on high!
Alleluia! to the Savior
who has gained the victory!
Alleluia! to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia
to the Triune Majesty!*

Discipleship Moment

Offertory - *He Touched Me* - Tim Zuschin
(Please fill out the attendance sheet found in the pew.)

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 325** - Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus

Hail, thou once despised Jesus!
Hail, thou Galilean King!
Thou didst suffer to release us;
thou didst free salvation bring.
Hail, thou universal Savior,
who hast borne our sin and shame!
By thy merits we find favor;
life is given through thy name.

Paschal Lamb, by God appointed,

all our sins on thee were laid;
by almighty love anointed,
thou hast full atonement made.
Every sin may be forgiven
through the virtue of thy blood;
opened is the gate of heaven,
reconciled are we with God.

Jesus, hail! enthroned in glory,
there forever to abide;
all the heavenly hosts adore thee,
seated at thy Father's side.
There for sinners thou art pleading;
there thou dost our place prepare;
thou for saints art interceding
till in glory they appear.

Worship, honor, power, and blessing
Christ is worthy to receive;
loudest praises, without ceasing,
right it is for us to give.
Help, ye bright angelic spirits,
bring your sweetest, noblest lays;
help to sing of Jesus' merits,
help to chant Emmanuel's praise!

Benediction and Choral Response - (Hymn 666)

Shalom to you now, shalom my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends. In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

Postlude - *Prelude in E-flat Major* - J. S. Bach



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

In honor of the First Church office staff.

Service Music - Wesley Ringers; All Children's Choirs; Men's Chorus

Music: One License A-731491

NEXT STEPS

Roll the Dice

vs. 22 – The disciples faced their first decision after the ascension

vs. 26 – So of course the disciples chose by rolling dice!

Out of Order!

vs. 24 – Prayer is always in order and not debatable!

Global church decisions require prayer, compromise, and conviction

Questions for Reflection: How do you balance conviction and compromise in your life? Do you find it easier to resist based on your convictions or compromise to foster togetherness? What other ways can disagreement be managed? How does prayer factor in to your approaches to these questions?

Question for Discussion: Have you ever thought about what it means that you are part of a global Church? How does that shape your understanding of your Christian life?

Memory Verse: **Ephesians 4:1-3** – “I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Readings for this Week: Acts 2:1-21, Ephesians 4:1-7, John 17:20-24

CHURCH NOTES

Sunday, May 19: Next Sunday will be a busy day for First Church. We will recognize our graduating seniors, receive new members, and join together for a meal! When you leave the sanctuary after church, please greet the new members in the Narthex. Then head to the parlor to congratulate the seniors. After that, go up to Wesley Hall and enjoy a **Potluck Lunch** with our church family. *Please bring your favorite dishes to share!*

Geraniums For Pentecost: We will celebrate Pentecost **next Sunday, May 19**. We are asking people to bring a single potted red geranium to worship and place it in the front of the Sanctuary. The plants will then be planted around the church building to beautify our grounds.

Vacation Bible School: Registration is now open for Camp Firelight VBS on June 17-21. Register online at <https://fumccf.mycokesburyvbs.com> or get a flyer from the office or Welcome Center. VBS is from 9 - 12 for children aged 3 (by 9/24/24) - 4th grade. SERVE is at the same time for grades 5-6, and the afternoon Extreme program is from 12-5.

VBS Volunteers Needed/VBS Teacher Training: We are still looking for volunteers to help with VBS, SERVE, and Extreme. Contact Donna Curfman at Ext. 213 or dcurfmanfallsumc@gmail.com if you are interested. If you've committed to helping with VBS, you should plan to attend one of the **required** Teacher Training Sessions which are scheduled for Wednesday, May 29. Choose a daytime session at 12:30 p.m. followed by a meeting of all those working with the preschool part of VBS or the evening session at 6:30 p.m. If you cannot attend on the 29th, there is a make up session after church on June 2. Please RSVP to Donna Curfman as to which session you will attend.

Concert at First Church: On Wednesday, May 22, at 7:30 p.m., *The Singers Companye*, a chamber choir under the direction of Sam Gordon, will present the major work of composer, Dan Forrest, "Jubilate Deo" with orchestra. A concert not to be missed!

Chess Camp is returning this year! The program for children going into grades K and up will run in the mornings from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. the week of June 24 – 28. Beginners through advanced chess players are all welcome for a cost of \$25. This will include lunch each day. Brochures are available at the Welcome Center, in the church office and on our website.

Work Camp: Each year a group of adults and youth from First Church go to Henderson Settlement in Kentucky. There they take on projects for the folks who live there: painting, roofing, repairing. Helping these folks is a wonderfully rewarding experience. This year Work Camp will take place June 2 - 8. If you are interested in going, or just want more information, please contact Jack Steele at 330-697-8344.

Annual Golf Outing: It is time to mark your calendars again for the 18th Annual Bud Mills Memorial Golf Outing to benefit the Epworth tour of 2025. The outing is at Brookledge again on June 22 at 1:30. You may play in the event for \$90. We are seeking hole and cart sponsors as well at the \$150 and \$25 levels.

Habitat For Humanity: First Church partners with Habitat to build a home yearly. We will begin our next home in May and will be volunteering one Saturday each month from May through September. No experience necessary, but you must be 18 years or older and will participate in things such as siding, painting, insulating, etc. We are able to have 7 volunteers each time. If you would like to participate, please let Kim Kerr at Kdk3rr@gmail.com or 330-606-7736.

New Handbell Choir: Do you love seeing the handbells on Sunday mornings? Here is your chance to play them. Dean Wagner is putting together a new handbell choir for beginning to intermediate players. Rehearsals will be on Thursdays from 6 - 6:45 p.m. The beginning date yet to be determined. Please contact Dean at Ext. 221 or email him at hdwagnerfumc@gmail.com. <mailto:hdwagnerfumc@gmail.com>

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
MAY 12, 2024**



MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Scott Adie	Delphia Lowe
Bob Ahonen	Kathi Sawyer
Debbie Amundsen	Bonnie Shultz
Jim Beebe	Karen & Michael Taucher
Mark & Cindy Blaser	Ken Tunstall
Don Corbett	Carolyn Wadelin
Mary Griest	Sandy Wardell
Jim Henes	Rose Ann Youngkin
Jeff Iula	

DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

Billie Corbett and family on the death of her husband, member Don Corbett on 5/8.
Wade (Kim) Kerr on the death of his sister, Kay Steiner on 5/4.
Family of member Martha Johnson on her death on 4/28.