



May 21, 2023
Seventh Sunday of Easter

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Prelude

All Nature Sings

Landon

The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.

***Call to Worship**

Gather us in, Mysterious Maker God.

That being close to you we will understand your intention for creation.

Weave us into one, Sweet Savior of All.

That living your ways we will create communities of faith and peace.

Gather us in, Powerful Spirit of Renewal.

That treasuring the past we will boldly shape the future.

Weave us into one, Holy One in Three.

That together we may be the signs of your presence, the weavers of your communities and the witnesses to your coming. Gather us in this day so that we might gather strength from You. Amen.

***Opening Prayer**

All Praying

Damon Moore

Holy God, Master Weaver, we come to you this day to learn of your will for our lives. Heal our wounds; lift our spirits; give us courage and confidence to boldly serve you in all that we do. AMEN.

***Hymn**

Gather Us In

FWS 2236

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***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Damon Moore

When we reach to one another with a handshake and a smile and the word “peace,” we are weaving the fabric of the church community. When we make this effort to connect, we are doing our sacred work. Please turn to those around you and greet them with the peace of Christ by saying...

Peace be with you.
And also with you.

Children’s Time

Pastor Debra

Receptions of New Members

Pastor Debra

Carrie Glover
Alex Glover

Ministry of Music

He’s a Personal Savior

Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Understanding

All Praying

Damon Moore

As the scriptures are read, open our hearts that these words of truth may fall upon the very fabric of our lives. May these ancient scriptures come alive within us, to inspire, to heal, to cleanse, to teach to restore and to guide our hearts and minds. Lord, come weave your words of life in us. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 29:4-11 (NIV)

Damon Moore

4 This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. 7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” 8 Yes, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. 9 They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the Lord.

10 This is what the Lord says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Epistle Reading*Colossians 2:4-7 (The Message)*

Damon Moore

2-4 I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God's great mystery. All the richest treasures of wisdom and knowledge are embedded in that mystery and nowhere else. And we've been shown the mystery! I'm telling you this because I don't want anyone leading you off on some wild-goose chase, after other so-called mysteries, or "the Secret."

5 I'm a long way off, true, and you may never lay eyes on me, but believe me, I'm on your side, right beside you. I am delighted to hear of the careful and orderly ways you conduct your affairs, and impressed with the solid substance of your faith in Christ.

6-7 My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him. You're deeply rooted in him. You're well-constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start living it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving.

Gospel Reading*John 17:1-11(NIV)*

Damon Moore

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him authority over all people,[a] to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. 4 I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. 5 So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

6 "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, 8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. 9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. 10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. 11 And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

The People Respond

Damon Moore

O God, in you we live and move and have our being! Weave the truth of your word into the very being of our lives and our church. Amen.

Sermon

God's Tapestry

Pastor Debra

The Prayer Loom

Damon Moore

A prayer loom gives us an opportunity to pray with our hands and creates a visual representation of our conversations with God. Weaving together prayers with others in community reminds us how our lives and longings are knit together in God.

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Debra

Harmony Preschool Ministry Report

Heather Robèrt, Director

Offertory Invitation

Pastor Debra

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Song of Devotion

Hughes

**Doxology*

**Prayer of Dedication*

Damon Moore

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

***Hymn**

Forward Through the Ages

UMH 555

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Benediction

Pastor Debra

We came to this sacred space to celebrate and affirm that the Lord is a Master Weaver, intertwining our lives to create a tapestry of faith, a reflection of our oneness with Jesus and with one another. With God's grace, may the tapestry of our lives be woven with peace, love, strength, and joy. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Go in peace. Amen.

Choral Benediction

He Lives

He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!

He walks with me and talks with me

Along life's narrow way.

He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!

You ask me how I know he lives?

He lives within my heart.

Postlude

Go Forth With Joy

Wion

GATHER US IN

*Here in this place new light is streaming,
Now is the darkness vanished away,
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,
Brought here to you in the light of this day.*

*Gather us in the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young our lives are a myst'ry,
We are the old who yearn for your face,
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
Called to be light to the whole human race.*

*Gather us in the rich and the haughty,
Gather us in the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
Give us the courage to enter the song.*

*Here we will take the wine and the water,
Here we will take the bread of new birth,
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.*

*Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining,
Not in some heaven, light years away, but
Here in this place the new light is shining,
Now is the Kingdom, now is the day.*

*Gather us in and hold us forever,
Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

FORWARD THROUGH THE AGES

*Forward through the ages,
in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits
at the call divine;
gifts in differing measure,
hearts of one accord,
manifold the service,
one the sure reward.*

Refrain:

***Forward through the ages,
in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits
at the call divine.***

*Wider grows the kingdom,
reign of love and light;
for it we must labor,
till our faith is sight.
Prophets have proclaimed it,
martyrs testified,
poets sung its glory,
heroes for it died.*

Refrain:

***Forward through the ages,
in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits
at the call divine.***

*Not alone we conquer,
not alone we fall;
in each loss or triumph
lose or triumph all.
Bound by God's far purpose
in one living whole,
move we on together
to the shining goal.*

Refrain:
Forward through the ages,
in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits
at the call divine.