**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

 *\* Indicates, please stand if able.*

Ascension Sunday May 21, 2023 9 am

Liturgist: Daniel Brauner

WELCOME, PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\***CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Beloved, let us worship God!
**P: Let us give praise to God, the one who rides upon the clouds!**

L: Parent to orphans and Protector of widows,
**P: God gives the desolate a home and leads the imprisoned into prosperity.**

L: As God led the Israelites through the wilderness and provided for them,
**P: we too find our dwelling in God’s goodness and provision.**

L: The Rider in the heavens speaks throughout creation;
**P: We gather to listen and ascribe power to God!**

**A: Awesome is God in the sanctuary of creation! Blessed be God! Amen.**

\*OPENING PRAYER (Luke 24)

**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.**

**\***OPENING HYMN***Gather Us In***TFWS #2236

CHILDREN’S TIME Sunday School Students

JOYS AND CONCERNS

TESTIMONY Marcia Hagen/Lori Chown

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Ephesians 1)

**Life-giving God, we receive your blessing, but we don’t always feel worthy to receive it. Your call often confuses us and your love seems too generous. We worship and pray, yet we still count the times we fall short of what we think you expect of us. Your mercy is abundant, but we hesitate to open our hearts to receive it. Get our attention and draw us closer to you, that we may know the relief of your assurance. As we pray to you, hear our prayers. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Ephesians 1)

God hears our faithful prayers and looks upon us with eyes filled with compassion. Christ advocates on our behalf; through him, we are forgiven.

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Shon

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(In Unison)*

**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.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Acts 17, 1 Peter 3)

We are blessed by God’s word. Let us respond boldly to God’s grace with abundant giving for the mission and ministry of this church.

SPECIAL MUSIC ***Then Sings My Soul*** arr. by Anna Laura Page Bell Choir

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER Rev. Shon

**\***DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH #95

SCRIPTURE 1 Peter 1:3-9

**3**Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4**and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, **5**who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. **6**In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. **7**These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. **8**Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, **9**for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE  ***Amazing Grace*** UMH#378

MESSAGE ***Where Does Our Hope Come From?*** Rev. Shon

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT  ***Hymn of Promise*** UMH #707

**\***BENEDICTION Rev. Shon

 POSTLUDE Bell Choir

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray for people in need in our church, community, nation, and the

World.

**PRAYER WALK:** will take place today at 1pm in parking lot.

**MISSION OUTREACH**: will meet today at 10:30am in the Keefe Room.

**INGATHERING KITS:** we will be collecting Home Care Kits and Personal Dignity Kits,

 Please bring donations in by June 4th.

**CHILDREN/YOUTH/FAMILY:** will meet Thursday, May 25 at 5:30 pm.

**YOUTH GROUP:** Last Sunday School today! Ice Cream social today after Worship.

**SCRIP CARDS:** When you are thinking of ideas for gift giving or personal use, consider Scrip

 cards**.** Stop at the gathering area on Sundays or call Marcia at 715-284-3346

**NEWSLETTER:** Deadline is Monday, May 22, 2023.

**FELLOWSHIP:** will be served by Sunday school

**USHER/GREETERS**: Barb & Jeff Hagenbrock

**THIS WEEK AT THE CHURCH:**

 Sun: Mission Outreach 10:30 am

 Thurs: Children/Youth/Family 5:30 pm

 **Bible Verse for the week: Ephesians 1:7**

*“He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom*

*with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.”*

**Bible Trivia**

To whom did Jesus say, `Be not afraid, only believe`?

 A. Jairus B. Martha C. Mary D. Peter

 *See Mark 5:22-36*

**Black River Falls**

**United Methodist Church**

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**UMC Mission Statement:**

"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

 PASTOR Rev. Inwha Shon

 PIANIST Matthew Schluntz

 MUSIC DIRECTOR Amanda Lang

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