

**4th Sunday of Easter  
May 8, 2022 Worship Bulletin**

**Gathering for God's Word**

Prelude

**\*Call to Worship**

[inspired from Revelation 7]

Leader: From every nation, in every language, we cry out:

**People: "Salvation belongs to our God,**

Leader: And to the Lamb!"

**People: Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving! Honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!**

Leader: Amen!

**People: Amen!**

**\*Song of Praise**

"Salvation Belongs to Our God"

Salvation belongs to our God  
Who sits upon the throne  
And unto the Lamb  
Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks  
Honor and power and strength

Refrain:

Be to our God, forever and ever  
Be to our God, forever and ever  
Be to our God, forever and ever  
Amen

And we the redeemed shall be strong  
In purpose and unity, declaring aloud  
Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks  
Honor and power and strength

Text & Music: Adrian Howard & Pat Turner

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Passing the Peace of Christ

Welcome & Announcements

Time of Silence & Ringing of the Bell

### Preparing for God's Word

\*Hymn of Praise

#327, "From All That Dwell Below the Skies"

From all that dwell below the skies,  
Let the Creator's praise arise;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung,  
through every land by every tongue.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

In every land begin the song;  
To every land the strains belong;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
In cheerful sounds all voices raise,  
And fill the world with joyful praise.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord;  
Eternal truth attends thy word  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,  
Till suns shall rise and set no more.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: Stanzas 1 & 3, Isaac Watts, 1719; stanza 2, A Pocket Hymn Book, 1781  
Music: Geistliche Kirchengesang, 1623, alt.; Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906  
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Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Gracious God, from the places we dwell without peace, from the grip of all that is evil, from the places we experience violence and suffering,

**People: deliver us.**

Leader: From our paralysis of will, from the lies that leave our lips, from the times we wish to ignore your truth,

**People: deliver us.**

Leader: From hardness of heart, for the ways we turn from your path, from our desire to hold onto to grudges and refuse to forgive,

**People: deliver us.**

Leader: By the Good News of your Gospel, by your choosing our flesh, by your nakedness and pain,

**People: heal us.**

Leader: By your weeping over the city, by your refusal of the sword, by your facing of the horror of the cross,

**People: heal us.**

Leader: By your bursting from the tomb, by your conquering of sin and death, by your promise to return,

**People: heal us. Grant us your hope and peace. Amen.**

## Hearing God's Word

### Children's Message

Ages 12 and under gather up front as congregation sings, #188, "Jesus Loves Me."  
After the Children's Message, the children may return to sit with their families.

### Commissioning of the Women of the Church

Leader: In Galatians 3 it reminds us that we are baptized into Christ and are clothed with Christ.

Men: There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female for all of us are one in Christ Jesus.

Leader: We are called by God to be the Church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

Men: The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the Gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

Leader: We are here today on Mother's Day to recommission the women of Union to the ministry God has called each of them to as disciples of Christ. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering from God and a responsibility. These women are called to serve the Church, in their homes and with their families, in their paid and/or volunteer work in the community, and even engaging in mission throughout the world.

Men: They are called to share the Gospel in word and deed, to nurture others in faith, to pray and praise God in all the tasks laid before them, to come alongside those who struggle in faith or in life, and to reflect the light of Christ in all the dark places of the world.

Leader: We know that God has placed a unique call on each of these women. And we commission them here to God's service. Women of Union, who is your Lord and Savior?

*Women: Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior*

Leader: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

*Women: I will, with God's help.*

Leader: And do you welcome the responsibility of this service as a follower of Jesus Christ to serve those Christ has put in your path with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and empowered by the Holy Spirit?

*Women: I do.*

Leader: You may be seated and let us pray.

## Prayers of the People

*[various prayers]*

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

## The Lord's Prayer

**All: 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. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## Hymn of Preparation

#375, "Shall We Gather at the River," vs. 1, 3

Shall we gather at the river?  
Where bright angel feet have trod  
With its crystal tide forever  
Flowing by the throne of God

Refrain:

Yes, we'll gather at the river  
The beautiful, the beautiful river  
Gather with the saints at the river  
That flows by the throne of God

Ere we reach the shining river,  
Lay we ev'ry burden down  
Grace our spirits will deliver  
And provide a robe and crown.

Text & Music: Robert Lowry, 1864  
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## Prayer of Illumination

### New Testament Reading: Revelation 7: 9-17

9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of

the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." 11 All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

13 Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes — who are they, and where did they come from?"

14 I answered, "Sir, you know."

And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. 16 Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. 17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

## Sermon

"Rehearsing for Heaven... White Robes"

## Responding to God's Word

### \*Hymn of Response

#299, "You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim," vs. 1, 2, 3

You servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
And publish abroad Christ's wonderful name;  
The name all-victorious of Jesus extol;  
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

Ascended on high, almighty to save;  
He still remains nigh, His presence we have;  
The great congregation His triumph shall sing,  
Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

"Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!"  
Let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
Fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1744, alt.

Music: Anon; A Supplement to the new Version of the Psalms, 1708  
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## Offering

Offertory

Choral Anthem: "Written in Red"

\*Response

#606, "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

\*Prayer of Dedication

## \*Benediction

### \*Benediction Response

#384, "Soon and Very Soon," vs. 1, 2

Soon and very soon,  
We are going to see the King  
Soon and very soon,  
We are going to see the King  
Soon and very soon,  
We are going to see the King  
Hallelujah, hallelujah  
We are going to see the King

No more crying there,  
We are going to see the King,  
No more crying there,  
We are going to see the King.  
No more dying there,  
We are going to see the King,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
We are going to see the King.

Text & Music: Andrae Crouch, 1976

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## \*Postlude

### \*Please Stand if Able