

Instructions for the Service over Zoom

Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81079526166?pwd=Q0JFSFE4d0VObTRTdHo3V0dPYmFWUT09>

Meeting ID: 810 7952 6166

Passcode: 170458

Dial in: 646 558 8656

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Please use the chat button to convey your celebrations and your prayer concerns. We can save them to a file and publish them as the prayer list for the congregation on Monday.

Recording this Service

We will record today's service for members and friends who cannot participate in worship at this hour. The recording will begin with the Call to Worship and end at the close of the Benediction. We will also post an audio of the reading and homily.

The service will be ready for viewing beginning on Monday evening and will be available until Saturday evening. The link to view the service will be in the Monday e-mail. You can listen to the audio and print a copy of the sermon from the church's website:

<https://www.shcong.org/worship>

Fifth Sunday in Easter
May 15, 2022 at 10:00 AM

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends, come. We gather in this time and place to offer our praise to God, who made heaven and earth.

We come to give thanks to the one whose name is exalted above all others.

Raise your voices to sing new songs to the living God.

OPENING HYMN

God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale

NCH 32

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Steadfast and holy God, you call us to be your church. You call us to be your light to dispel the darkness in our world. Through our ministries, you call us to offer hope to strangers by proclaiming love's power in this community. Set your Holy Spirit among us. May it move among us and through us. Grant that it will empower us to use our spiritual gifts to continue the ministry Jesus began long ago. Amen.

SCRIPTURE - Acts 11:1-26

Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that took place over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they spoke the word to no one except Jews. But among them were some men of Cyprus and Cyrene who, on coming to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists also, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion, for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord. Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they met with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called “Christians.”

HOMILY

HYMN

I Want to be Ready

NCH 616

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

In the Midst of New Dimensions

NCH 391

BENEDICTION

*The flowers this morning given by Candy and Mike Iwanicki
in loving memory of George Gunn, whose birthday was May 9*

God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

1 Thess. 5: 18; Ps. 136

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

(Introduction) G G7 C Em Am Dm

1 God of the spar - row God of the whale
 2 God of the earth-quake God of the storm
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand

G7 C FM7 E7 Am Em

God of the swirl - ing stars How does the crea-ture say
 God of the trum - pet blast How does the crea-ture cry
 God of the emp - ty grave How does the crea-ture say
 God of the prod - i - gal How does the crea-ture say
 God of the prun - ing hook How does the crea-ture say
 God of the lov - ing heart How do your chil-dren say

FM7 Em7 Am Dm 1-5 Gsus4 G C

Awe How does the crea-ture say Praise
 Woe How does the crea-ture cry Save
 Grace How does the crea-ture say Thanks
 Care How does the crea-ture say Life
 Love How does the crea-ture say Peace
 Joy How do your chil-dren say Home.

After forty years in the ministry, Jaroslav Vajda wrote this text to provoke answers to how and why we serve God. By creating new poetic forms and adapting ageless ideas and expressions, Vajda speaks in the language of his time.

Tune: ROEDER 5.4.6.7.7.
 Carl F. Schalk, 1983

I Want to Be Ready

616

African-American spiritual

Rev. 21:1-4, 10-27; John 11:1-44; Acts 2:14, 36-41

Refrain

I want to be read - y, I want to be read - y,

Last time, end

I want to be read - y to walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John.

Leader *All*

1 Oh, John, oh, John, what do you say?
 2 When Mar - tha spoke the Sav - ior's name,
 3 When Pe - ter was preach - ing at Pen - te - cost, walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John.
 4 When Mar - y asked Je - sus to "come and see,"
 5 John said the cit - y was just four - square,

All *to Refrain*

That I'll be there at the com - ing day,
 She knew she'd nev - er be the same,
 He was en - dowed with the Ho - ly Ghost, walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John.
 Her faith gave Laz - a - rus vic - to - ry,
 And he de - clared he'd meet me there,

Leader

This African-American spiritual is one of a small number based on the Hebrew Scriptures but the New Testament, specifically the book of Revelation. Stanzas two and four are additions to the traditional text and include some of the female followers of Jesus.

Tune: I WANT TO BE READY Irr.
 African-American spiritual
 Arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland and Verolga Nix, 1981

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain

Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "Christian Unity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994