

WORSHIP GUIDE

May 21, 2023 7th Sunday of Easter

WE GATHER



CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Today is Ascension Sunday when we celebrate Christ's return to God.

**P: We look up in wonder as he is lifted from us into heaven!**

L: But this is not a time to gaze upward. There is work to be done.

**P: Jesus has entrusted the ministry of God's love to us.**

L: Let's get to work!

**P: Let's make our hearts ready for the task ahead with prayer and praise!**

L: Amen

OPENING HYMN: *Easter People Raise Your Voices #304 UMH*

OPENING PRAYER: **God of incredible surprises, as we gaze into the clouds, remind us that we are standing on holy ground. Place our feet on the pathways of peace and hope. Draw our attention from the vision of the Lord rising to the heavens to be with you and help us to focus on the ministries that you would have us do. Keep us ready and willing always to serve you all our days. AMEN.**

WE HEAR THE WORD PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

NT Lesson: Acts 1:1-11

Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:44-53

L: The word of God, for the people of God.

**P: Thanks be to God!**

HYMN OF PREPARATION: *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot #703UMH*

MESSAGE: *Looking Toward Heaven*

Pastor Jen

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling #384 UMH*

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND WITH THANKSGIVING

SONG BEFORE AND AFTER PRAYER *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying #2193 TFWS*

*Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (after each time of silence, we'll finish with the words "Lord in your mercy" and you are invited to respond, "**Hear our prayer.**")

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.**

OFFERING

This is an opportunity to share the goodness that has been given to you. Consider sending an offering to PO Box 630, Skowhegan, ME 04976. You are also invited to support an organization or church in our local community that is making a positive difference in people's lives.

\*\*Song of Thanksgiving:

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

**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.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CLOSING HYMN: *I'll Fly Away* #2282 TFWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION:

Easter people, God has done great things for you!

We go forth in unity and love.

We go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit!

We go forth in ministry and witness to the world.

For Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!

CENTENARY COMMUNITY PRAYER LIST: Lord, our faith community prays for the following people and situations: Wanda Hemond and Shawna Elliot at the loss of their mother Rosa; Gene and Amy Rouse, Tracey and Mason Woods; Jane Fields; Kevin Tansey's sister, Trisha; Betty Frederic and mother, Pearl; Larry James; Toni Jo and John Blaisdell; Linda and Wendy Eaton; Marj Coburn Black; Wanda Quimby and Al Quimby; Darcy Lyons; Bonnie Young's brother; Skip Young's brothers; Diane and Jim Diane Arsenault's brother, Leo Doucette; Jim Arsenault's Brother, Paul; Ila, David, and Bryce Libby; Janice and John Malek – for the healing of their daughter, Rebecca; Ken Fitzherbert; Babbett; Josh Breton; Rodney Brown and his mother, Clarissa; Cindy Travers; Kim Violette's sister Jody and her niece, Taylor; Kim Violette's mother, Carol; the Chase family; Foster children everywhere; victims and survivors of domestic violence; people struggling with housing and food insecurity; the Skowhegan Police Dept. Fire Dept. E.M. T.s; Health Care Workers; Teachers and educators everywhere and their support staff. The people of Ukraine; We pray for peace. Our Bishop, the Rev. Peggy Johnson and our District Superintendent, Rev. Arlene Tully

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### The HEARTS AND HANDS THRIFT SHOP

Co-Managers: James Barto and Ila Libby

**Hours of Operation: Wednesdays 9 AM to 12 PM**

\*\*\*Call James @ 207-858-0257 to arrange drop off donations or for more information.

### CLOTHING CLOSET

The Clothing Closet is open on Wednesdays 9 AM to NOON and 5 PM to 7 PM

### THE CUP CAFÉ

Our CUP Café is open on Wednesdays 9AM—12 NOON.

Each week we offer a light lunch, hot chocolate, coffee and snacks. We also have FREE Wi-fi.

### \*\*\*FREE DRIVE THRU COMMUNITY MEALS UPDATE\*\*\*

The Tuesday Evening Meals offers a free meal on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month.

Call the church @ 207-474-3915

Leave your name and # of meals.

Pick up time is between 5-6 PM that evening.

**Our next meal is on May 23rd. Hamburgers and potato salad.**

**Please call by Monday, May 22nd to reserve your meal.**

## FELLOWSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

- Adult Sunday School: Sundays @ 9:00 am Kidzone
- Men's Fellowship: Mondays @ 8:00 am (See Gene Rouse or Skip Young)
- Small Group Ministry: Wednesdays @ 1:00PM -2:30PM (see Pastor Jen)
- ♦ Giving Angels Women's Fellowship: 1st Tuesday of each month. 10 AM –12:00 PM

## MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LENDING PROGRAM

Do you or someone you know have need for a wheelchair, walker, crutches, canes, etc.? If so, we have many of these items available through our medical lending program. This is offered by ap-appointment. Call 207-474-3915 and leave your name, phone number, and the item that you need. Someone will contact you. This is an outreach through the partnership of Common Unity Place and Centenary United Methodist Church.