

**MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter/Ascension Sunday**  
**May 21, 2023**

**We Gather Together In The Lord's Name**

Tolling of the Bell and Prelude  
Coming of the Light  
Welcome and Announcements

**Let Us Prepare Our Hearts and Minds for Worship**

\*Morning Call to Worship: **Psalm 68**

Beloved, let us worship God!

**Let us give praise to God, the one who rides upon the clouds!**

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

As God led the Israelites through the wilderness and provided for them,  
**We too find our dwelling in God's goodness and provision.**

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

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

\*Hymn of Praise....."Morning Has Broken".....#145

\*Opening Prayer: **A Prayer for the Sunday After the Ascension**  
*(please join in unison)*

**O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven. Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

\*Observe the Peace of Christ: (1 Corinthians 13:4-5) ***"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful."***

Psalter Reading....."Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35".....#792  
***"Sing God's glory above the heavens; praise God's name in all the earth."***

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

**The Promises of God Comes to Us Through The Word**

Old Testament Lesson.....2 Chronicles 7:14

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Lesson..... 1 Peter 2:9-10

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

\*Gospel Lesson.....Matthew 12:46-50

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon....."Who Are Your People?".....Mr. Huley Perry

\*Prayer Of Intercession: *(please join in unison)*

Glory be to you, great reconciling God, in you our Lord Jesus found his guide and goal. Encouraged by his Spirit, we come to you with thanksgiving and praise.

**Draw us closer to you that we may be closer to each other, and closer to each other that we may be closer to you. As we seek your blessing on this gathering, we also pray for your blessing on all other congregations who will gather on this Lord's Day.**

**Help us to find unity in praise and in outreach. We long for the day when the world will say of us: "See how well these Christians love one another."**

Then shall Christ Jesus be truly glorified on earth, and our earthly songs shall echo the music of heaven. Amen!

\*Hymn of Hope ..... "Spirit Song".....#347

**The Word of God Comes to Us Through the Holy Spirit**

Affirmation of Faith....."The Apostles' Creed".....#881

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

\*Doxology.....#95

\*Offertory Prayer

**Go and Share the Love of God**

\*Hymn of Commitment....."Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior".....#351

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

\****Please Stand If Able***

**^^ Please remember during/after the tolling of the bell occurs to be seated, quiet, and prepare your hearts for worship. ^^**

Lectionary Readings (Pentecost Sunday– May 28)

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

## **Announcements & Upcoming Events:**

- ❖ No Bible Study on May 24<sup>th</sup> at Bethel. Our final Bible Study will be on Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm.
- ❖ **Saturday, June 3-** Fairfield Christian Men Trash Pickup (7:30am at Bethel)
- ❖ **Sunday, June 4-Wednesday, June 7-** South Carolina Annual Conference will be held at the Florence Center. Theme: Seeking A More Excellent Way, Breathe and Believe, Hewing Hope. Please be in constant prayer for all leaders, clergy, and lay members to Annual Conference.
- ❖ **Sunday, June 4-** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Holy Communion (During Worship at Monticello and Bethel)
- ❖ **Sunday, June 4-** Feed The Hungry Sunday (Please bring your non-perishable food items for Fairfield Community Food Bank)

Pastor Ben will be back from Norway on May 29<sup>th</sup>. In case of any emergency, please reach out to Rev. Steve Elkins, First UMC, at (816) 210-1076.

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary today at Bethel UMC for the Glory of God by Mrs. Missy Taylor.

### **The Churches Are in Prayer For:**

**Monticello UMC-** Ellen Bradley, Allen Brock, Don Gunter, Helen Suber, Sammie Burley, Robert Davis, Noelani Dirnbauer, Sandra Harrison, Kenny Martin, Lindsey Gunter & the Gunter family, Bobby Mack, Sam Mack, Will Pope, Ritchie Koon, Anne Robinson, Margaret Robinson, Irene Dukes, The Houck Family, Laura Collins Tom & Brenda Davis, Brenda Crone, Bill & Sandra Pherigo, Gretchen & Guy Burley Ellen Blackstone, Bradley Leach, Dave & Martha Mazingo, David Young, Gordon Slice Al McMeekin, The Wilkes Family, Buck Morrison, Jay Manis, Connor McCann,

**Bethel UMC-** Bob Bazinet, William Bundrick, Sherry Crosby, Billy and Diane Dove, Epworth Children's Home, Buddy Beckham, Jackie McDaniel, Greg Robertson, Jimmie & Gloria Parker, Sheryl Ashford, Jerry Arnold, Janet Davis, Terry Dent, Mary Cathryn Wilson, Marian Faile, Joseph Schachner, Mary Ella Ruff, Christian Moore, Teresa Taaffe, Lindsey Gunter, Carrie Lathan, The Horton Family, The Nisbet Family, The Truesdale Family, Huey and Doris Leitner, The Lever Family, The unity in our county, state, nation, and world,

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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