

Worship Services on May 15 & 16, 2022

Welcome and Greeting God is good **all the time**. All the time **God is good**.

Question of the Day Will a fifty-year shingle outlive me?

***Hymn** “How Great Is Our God”

***Call to Worship**

Alleluia! Christ is alive; let all the people praise him!

Let all creation sing with joy! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Invocation**

O God of promise, your word made flesh in Jesus Christ is trustworthy and true. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may it rise up in us this day like a gift from the spring of the water of life to refresh our thirsty souls. Amen.

Psalm 148 #861 *UMH* *We will use the sung response, and read the psalm responsively.*

Acts 11:1-18 *The Message*

The news traveled fast and in no time the leaders and friends back in Jerusalem heard about it – heard that the non-Jewish “outsiders” were now “in.” When Peter got back to Jerusalem, some of his old associates, concerned about circumcision, called him on the carpet: “What do you think you’re doing rubbing shoulders with that crowd, eating what is prohibited and ruining our good name?”

So Peter, starting from the beginning, laid it out for them step-by-step: “Recently I was in the town of Joppa praying. I fell into a trance and saw a vision: Something like a huge blanket, lowered by ropes at its four corners, came down out of heaven and settled on the ground in front of me. Milling around on the blanket were farm animals, wild animals, reptiles, birds – you name it, it was there. Fascinated, I took it all in.

“Then I heard a voice: ‘Go to it, Peter – kill and eat.’ I said, ‘Oh, no, Master. I’ve never so much as tasted food that wasn’t kosher.’ The voice spoke again: ‘If God says it’s okay, it’s okay.’ This happened three times, and then the blanket was pulled back up into the sky.

“Just then three men showed up at the house where I was staying, sent from Caesarea to get me. The Spirit told me to go with them, no questions asked. So I went with them, I and six friends, to the man who had sent for me. He told us how he had seen an angel right in his own house, real as his next-door-neighbor, saying, ‘Send to Joppa and get Simon, the one they call Peter. He’ll tell you something that will save your life – in fact, you and everyone you care for.’

“So I started in, talking. Before I’d spoken half a dozen sentences, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as he did on us the first time. I remembered Jesus’ words: ‘John baptized with water; you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ So I ask you: If God gave the same exact gift to them as to us when we believed in the Master Jesus Christ, how could I object to God?”

Hearing it all laid out like that, they quieted down. And then, as it sank in, they started praising God. “It’s really happened! God has broken through to the other nations, opened them up to Life!”

Revelation 21:1-8 *New Revised Standard Version*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their

eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

Response: *The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!*

Hymn “Open the Eyes of My Heart”

Time of Prayer

How Is It With Your Soul?

Unison Prayer

Surprising God, in the resurrection of Jesus Christ you make all things new.

Long ago you called your church to a love beyond all social and cultural differences and gave them the gift of your Holy Spirit to open their hearts to enact such love. Give us that same spirit of openness, that we too might discern new directions in our day for your dream to reconcile and heal all creation. *Time of Silent Prayer*

With Jesus Christ we pray together:

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.

Answer to the Question of the Day Will a fifty-year shingle outlive me?

Time of Offering *Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity.*

***Offering Prayer**

Holy God, you call us to a ministry of service: water for the thirsty, comfort for those who grieve, healing for ones in pain, acceptance for persons who have not accepted themselves. We dedicate ourselves and our gifts toward the new world you are creating among us – a world where peace emerges from mutual respect and honest encounters. Amen.

***Song of Offering** “Give Thanks”

Message “Verse 8” Rev. Joyce Rich

***Blessing**

God is Alpha and Omega, beginning and end.

God refreshes us daily with the gift of living water.

We have been baptized with water and the Holy Spirit.

We go out into the world as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Amen. **And Amen.**

***Hymn** “Down to the River to Pray”

Announcements; Read For Next Week: Acts 16:9-15; Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5

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