

WORSHIP HANDOUT  
Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>  
Fourth Sunday after Easter  
Communion  
Series: Not the Way it was Before



OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

\*SONG OF WELCOME “Gather Us In”

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord is with us,  
**We hear God’s call.**

God creates spaces for us,  
**We participate with him in amazing works.**

The world is transformed,  
**And we are transformed along with it. Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

Dear Lord,  
Help me to expect miracles.  
Help me to get past the borders of my eyes,  
the roadblocks of my mind,  
the narrow door of my heart.  
May my soul embrace  
the mystery of Your magnificent love!  
May my heart rejoice  
over the unexpected and undefined!

May my mind and body sigh  
with the sheer awe of it all. Amen.

~ written by Leonard Sweet, posted on **Preach the Story**. <https://preachthestory.com/>

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER “Rise and Shine”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

TIME OF PRAYER

Prayers/Names of the People

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYER (MUSIC)

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 now and forever. Amen.

HYMN: “It is Well with My Soul”

UMH #377

LESSON I **Acts 7:55-60** CEB

**<sup>55</sup> But Stephen, enabled by the Holy Spirit, stared into heaven and saw God’s majesty and Jesus standing at God’s right side. <sup>56</sup> He exclaimed, “Look! I can see heaven on display and the Human One standing at God’s right side!” <sup>57</sup> At this, they shrieked and covered their ears. Together, they charged at him, <sup>58</sup> threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. The witnesses placed their coats in the care of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> As they battered him with stones, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, accept my life!” <sup>60</sup> Falling to his knees, he shouted, “Lord, don’t hold this sin against them!” Then he died. May God add a blessing to this reading.**

**\*LESSON 2**

**John 14:1-14 CEB**

**“Don’t be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me. <sup>2</sup> My Father’s house has room to spare. If that weren’t the case, would I have told you that I’m going to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> When I go to prepare a place for you, I will return and take you to be with me so that where I am you will be too. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place I’m going.”**

**<sup>5</sup> Thomas asked, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going. How can we know the way?”**

**<sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you have really known me, you will also know the Father. From now on you know him and have seen him.”**

**<sup>8</sup> Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father; that will be enough for us.”**

**<sup>9</sup> Jesus replied, “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been with you all this time? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I have spoken to you I don’t speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Trust me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or at least believe on account of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> I assure you that whoever believes in me will do the works that I do. They will do even greater works than these because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father can be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> When you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it.**

**L: This is the Word of God for all people.**

**P: Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE "Jesus Among Us"

HYMN "Christ is the World's Light" UMH #188

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY UMH #94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

\*UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God,  
giver of every good and perfect gift,  
teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,  
that we may praise you not with our words only,  
but with our whole lives. Amen.

ANTHEM "Come to the Table of the Lord" Albrecht/Althouse

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION (let's try it here at the "end" and  
see if maybe we can have the kids come back in)

CLOSING HYMN

"For the Bread Which You Have Broken" UMH #614

\*BENEDICTION and RESPONSE

"Because He Lives" (refrain only) UMH #364

## POSTLUDE