

May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023  
**7th Sunday after Easter**  
**GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

**PRELUDE: Shout to the Lord**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**QUIET HYMN: Stand by Me** #512

**SILENT PRAYER**

**CHOIR INTROIT: O Christ, When You Ascended**

**\*HYMN: Lift Every Voice and Sing** #519

***CENTERING FOR WORSHIP***

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Welcome! We are gathered here to celebrate the great promise!

**P: Our hearts are ready to receive this good news.**

L: Jesus asked all his friends to live lives reflecting the love of God.

**P: We are numbered among these friends!**

L: Open your hearts today. Hear God's special word just for you!

**P: May God open our hearts to live in Christ's love.**

**\* PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

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 Jesus 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, as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**ANTHEM: Classic Praise**

***PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD***

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Acts 1:6-14

John 17:1-11

**\*HYMN: He is Exalted**

**#2070**

**THE WORD OF GOD EXPLORED**

Pastor Joel Holcomb

***GRATEFUL RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD***

**OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**#95**

**\*DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND PASTOR**

**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.

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**\*HYMN: Blessed Assurance**

**#369**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE: Lord, I Lift Your Name on High**

*\*Indicates standing if that is comfortable for you.*

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