



# Worship Celebration

Ascension of the Lord Sunday

May 24, 2020 + 11 AM

The **Easter Season**, also known as the **Great Fifty Days**, begins at sunset on Easter Eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost (this year, on May 31). This our most joyous and celebrative season and the core of the entire Christian year. Together, we focus on Christ's resurrection and ascension and the continual invitation and call from God to live as Easter people, sharing God's love with the world. **Ascension Day** is the fortieth day after Easter Sunday, when Christ ascended into heaven (Acts 1.1-11).

## **Welcome to The United Methodist Church of Berea!**

*As followers of Jesus Christ, who reveals a God whose love knows no boundaries, we are committed to welcoming and affirming every person as a beloved child of God. Every person—of every sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, economic status, health, ability, or any other identifying label—is welcome to participate fully in our ministries and life together as church. We hope The UMC of Berea will become a home for you, your family, and your friends as together, **we make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

*Join us in worship, Sunday mornings at 11 am, on Facebook Live ([www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA](http://www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA)), or watch and share the video of our worship service later on our website at [www.umcb.org/sermons](http://www.umcb.org/sermons).*

*In preparation for worship, you are encouraged to light a candle as a reminder of God's presence.*

## **We Gather as God's Children**

**Prelude**

**Words of Welcome**

**Opening Prayer**

*Called to be one with Christ, to be one with each other, to be one in ministry to all the world,  
we gather, O God, in the unity of your Holy Spirit.*

*Gather us into your presence, that we may be devoted to prayer  
and strengthened in unity and love.*

*In your holy name, we live, worship, and pray. Amen.*

**Hymn**

*Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

UMH 173

*Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.*

*Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;  
joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see;  
till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.*

*Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, Radiancy divine, scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.*

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## **We Grow in God's Word**

Leader: With disciples of every time and place, let us listen for the word of God among us.

**People: *Our ears and hearts are open.***

### **First Lesson—Psalm 68.1-10 (CEB)**

<sup>1</sup> Let God rise up; let his enemies scatter; let those who hate him run scared before him!

<sup>2</sup> Like smoke is driven away, drive them away!

Like wax melting before fire, let the wicked perish before God!

<sup>3</sup> But let the righteous be glad and celebrate before God. Let them rejoice with gladness!

<sup>4</sup> Sing to God! Sing praises to his name! Exalt the one who rides the clouds!

The LORD is his name. Celebrate before him!

<sup>5</sup> Father of orphans and defender of widows is God in his holy habitation.

<sup>6</sup> God settles the lonely in their homes; he sets prisoners free with happiness,  
but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

<sup>7</sup> When you went forth before your people, God,

when you marched through the wasteland, <sup>8</sup> the earth shook!

Yes, heaven poured down before God, the one from Sinai—before God, the God of Israel!

<sup>9</sup> You showered down abundant rain, God;

when your inheritance grew weary, you restored it yourself, <sup>10</sup> and your creatures settled in it.

In your goodness, God, you provided for the poor.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

**People: *Thanks be to God.***

### **Gospel Lesson—Acts 1.1-11 (CEB)**

<sup>1</sup> Theophilus, the first scroll I wrote concerned everything Jesus did and taught from the beginning, <sup>2</sup> right up to the day when he was taken up into heaven. Before he was taken up, working in the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus instructed the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he showed them that he was alive with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days, speaking to them about God's kingdom. <sup>4</sup> While they were eating together, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised. He said, "This is what you heard from me: <sup>5</sup> John baptized with water, but in only a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>6</sup> As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, "Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?"

<sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "It isn't for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

<sup>9</sup> After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. <sup>11</sup> They said, "Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven."

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

**People: *Thanks be to God.***

## Children's Message

## Sermon

## Hymn

*You Say*

*I keep fighting voices in my mind that say I'm not enough,  
every single lie that tells me I will never measure up.*

*Am I more than just the sum of every high and every low?  
Remind me once again just who I am, because I need to know.*

*You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing.  
You say I am strong when I think I am weak.  
You say I am held when I am falling short.  
And, when I don't belong, You say I am Yours,  
and I believe, I believe. What you say of me, I believe.*

*The only thing that matters now is everything You think of me.  
In You I find my worth, in you I find my identity.*

*You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing.  
You say I am strong when I think I am weak.  
You say I am held when I am falling short.  
And, when I don't belong, You say I am Yours,  
and I believe, I believe. What you say of me, I believe.*

*Taking all I have, and now I'm laying it at Your feet.  
You'll have every failure, God; You'll have every victory.*

*You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing.  
You say I am strong when I think I am weak.  
You say I am held when I am falling short.  
And, when I don't belong, You say I am Yours,  
and I believe, I believe. What you say of me, I believe.*

*You Say / Jason Ingram, Lauren Daigle, Paul Mabury / 2016 CentricSongs, Essential Music Publishing LLC  
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## Prayers of the People

### The Lord's Prayer

### Moment for Mission

### Giving our Tithes and Offerings

*Some of us may be experiencing financial hardship or uncertainty during this season, but our generosity through the life of the church remains crucial as an expression of our discipleship and to ensuring that we can maintain our commitments to mission and ministry during this uncertain time. If you already give financially online ([www.umcb.org/donate](http://www.umcb.org/donate)) or by mailing a check to the church office, thank you! If you do not do so already, please consider giving through one of these methods now as we continue to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

### Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

*Pour out your Holy Spirit on us.*

*Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts.*

*And pour out your Holy Spirit on the ministries we offer in your name.*

*Through our offerings and through our lives,*

*may others find generous friends and a loving community of faith. Amen.*

# We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*

TFWS 2241

*The Spirit sends us forth to serve; we go in Jesus' name  
to bring glad tidings to the poor, God's favor to proclaim.*

*We go to comfort those who mourn and set the burdened free;  
where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.*

*We go to be the hands of Christ, to scatter joy like seed  
and, all our days, to cherish life, to do the loving deed.*

*Then let us go to serve in peace, the gospel to proclaim.  
God's Spirit has empowered us; we go in Jesus' name.*

*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve / Delores Dufner / 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. by OCP Publications  
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## Benediction

Called to be one with Christ, let us go forth in unity and love.

***Called to be one with each other, let us go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit.***

Called to be one in ministry to the world, let us go forth to bear witness to God's love.

***Thanks be to God. Amen.***

***Our service of worship is ended.  
Our worship through service now begins.***

### Morning Prayer:

Holy God, I give you thanks  
that Christ ascends in the core of my being  
as new life arises within me.  
Open the eyes of my heart this day  
to seek and to serve you in all whom I meet. Amen.

### Evening Prayer:

I turn from the wrongs I have done this day,  
and I seek forgiveness by the grace of your love.  
Clothe me with power this night, O God,  
that my life may rest hidden in you. Amen.

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## Pastoral Care and Prayer Requests

Please reach out to **Pastor Nathan** ([nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x101) if you would like to schedule an individual time to talk or if you have a specific prayer request. Likewise, if you find yourself needing food or other supplies and unable to get them, please contact me, and we will do our best to care for you; we have a team of servants ready to respond as best we can. Know that none of us is alone even though we will not be gathering together in person.

## Staff & Office Hours

In accordance with the Governor's recommendations and for the protection of all, our staff is working from home whenever possible. If you contact the staff by email or phone message, please be assured they will respond as quickly as they are able. If your business requires a visit to the church building, please call in advance to ensure a staff member will be available.



## Care Leaders

While we are apart from one another physically, we remain connected through our common mission and through our mutual concern and care. As an expression of our connection, we now have a team of “care leaders” who are making phone calls throughout the course of the week to check in, be in conversation, and share prayer requests.

If you have not heard from a “care leader” yet and would like to connect this way, or if you would like to serve as a “care leader,” contact **Pastor Nathan** at **440-234-3525 x101** or [nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org).



## Women’s Book Study: Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World

**Starting Thursday, May 28, 6:30 PM**

Mary Lynn Swartz will be starting a new women’s study focused on the book: **Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World** by Joanna Weaver. It will start on Thursday, May 28 at 6:30 PM.

Join us at [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85619179718?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85619179718?pwd=NUlFR3dUc0lKdkM2OVlWbHcwblpCdz09)

[pwd=NUlFR3dUc0lKdkM2OVlWbHcwblpCdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85619179718?pwd=NUlFR3dUc0lKdkM2OVlWbHcwblpCdz09) or by phone (1-888-788-0099). Enter Meeting ID 856 1917 9718 and Password 600537 when prompted.

Need more information?

Please contact **Mary Lynn Swartz** at **440-409-5931** or [marylynn482@gmail.com](mailto:marylynn482@gmail.com).



## Food Collection for Church Street Ministries

**Wednesdays, 5 pm - 8 pm in the UMCB Parking Lot**

We will be collecting non-perishable food items again to support the pantry at Church Street Ministries in the church parking lot. Dave LeBrun will be there to meet you, practicing safe social distancing and receiving your donations. Canned meat (e.g. tuna or chicken) especially is being requested. If you are not planning already to make a trip to the grocery store, please feel free to participate with a monetary donation instead, either by mailing a check to the church office (noting “food pantry” in the memo line) or by donating online at [www.umcb.org/donate](http://www.umcb.org/donate) (noting “food pantry” in the line marked “other.”) Thank you for your generous participation as we continue to love our neighbors



## Letters for Immigrants in Detention Centers

We are collecting letters of support and encouragement to be sent to those in detention centers. During this pandemic, these places are of particular concern for people to be held. Let’s do what we can in advocacy, and by sending our support and love.

Send your letters to Pastor Carrie at the church. She will box and send them all to a group working with the Methodist Federation for Social Change.

Visit our website (<http://www.umcb.org/resources-for-connecting-supporting-our-community/>) for great ideas in supportive phrases and how to write them in Spanish.

Thank you!



## UMW Greenhouse Coupons Available Now

Gardening is easy this year with the help of UMW. We’re selling coupons for \$16. Coupons may be redeemed at J & J Greenhouse for a flat of flowers, vegetables, or a 10” hanging basket.

Swing by the church parking lot on Wednesdays at 11.00 AM...we’ll be there chatting (practicing social distancing) and drinking our coffee!

Or contact **Carol McCleery** at **440-234-9078** or [mcmanistee7250@gmail.com](mailto:mcmanistee7250@gmail.com) to make more convenient arrangements. Thanks for your support.