

# Journal of the Journey

Seventh Sunday  
of Easter  
May 17, 2026



## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*\*please stand as you're able*

### PRELUDE

*O Clap Your Hands, R. Vaughan Williams<sup>1</sup>*

### WELCOME

#### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP - 1 Peter 3:8-12**

One: Christian believers are to be agreeable, sympathetic, loving, compassionate, and humble.

**All: That means every one of us, without exception!**

One: We are warned against retaliation, sarcasm, or bitterness...

**All: Instead we are to find a way to be a blessing to one another.**

One: God instructs us not to speak evil or hurtful thing.

**All: We are to snub evil, cultivate good, and pursue peace. God's eyes are on the righteous, and listens to our prayers with open ears.**

#### **\*HYMN 353**

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less, Solid Rock<sup>2</sup>*

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Lord Jesus Christ we ask that you would see us as a work in progress. We want to rid ourselves of malice and guile, insincerity and envy, evil thoughts, evil words, and evil actions. We recognize the ways that we disobey your Word. Please gather us from the darkness where we dwell and draw us into your powerful light. Help us to conduct ourselves honorably, we pray. Amen.**

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON - 1 Peter 2:9-10**

**\*HYMN 447**

*We Are Forgiven, We Are Forgiven*<sup>3</sup>

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION HYMN 458** *Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet, Thy Word*<sup>4</sup>

**SCRIPTURE**

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But 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 ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

**SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** - Amy Poland

Betty Bush, Erin DeMuth, and Connie Evans, the teachers of Spiritual Adventures, are vital partners in nurturing children's faith. Today we thank them for their patience, love, and dedication in planting seeds of God's Word in our children.

*After the message, children may go with the teacher to room 11 for Spiritual Adventures.*

## **WHAT WE BELIEVE** - A new proposed confession for the church, 2026

**Each of us, all of us—  
of every race, culture, language, nation,  
ability, gender, and affection—  
are called to manifest God's image and likeness:  
in our love for God,  
in our love for neighbors and strangers as ourselves,  
and in loving communion with all creation.**

**With us, beside us,  
God in Jesus Christ enters the world to transform it.  
Breaking down boundaries, renewing and expanding  
God's covenant with humanity,  
Jesus embodies and teaches the greatest commandments:  
to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves.  
With divine justice and holy joy,  
Jesus closes the separation between humanity and God,  
reigning as Lord over all creation,  
establishing God's kingdom in power and grace.**

### **SERMON**

*Living with Praise, Prayer and Purpose*

### **\*HYMN 267**

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing, Madrid<sup>5</sup>*

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, LORD'S PRAYER**

### **CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP**

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING** - *Please also pass the friendship form through the row.  
Bring coins! All change collected will go to a mission project as chosen by the children.*

### **OFFERTORY**

*Crown Him with Many Crowns, arr. M. Burkhardt<sup>6</sup>*

**\*DOXOLOGY HYMN 607** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow, Old Hundredth<sup>7</sup>*  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*HYMN 273**

*He Is King of Kings, He Is King<sup>8</sup>*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Rondeau, from Abdelazer, H. Purcell<sup>9</sup>*

*The postlude is offered as a grateful thanks to God. We invite you to remain seated as we listen together.*

**Leaders Today**

Interim Pastor: Rev. Sara Tonje

Liturgist: Erin DeMuth

Minister of Music: Joe Chrisman

AV/Tech: John Tarr/Josh Mou

The Chancel Choir

Ushers/Greeters: Abe & Carrie Aberle, Ed Cothroll, Gary Stephens (Deacon)



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