

Faith United Methodist Church

May 16, 2021



Centering

“For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from God, who alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. Trust in God at all times, O people; pour out your heart before God who is a refuge for us.”

Psalm 62:5-8

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you give us peace as you calm the seas, grace when you cover us and encouragement when you call to us. Open our hearts and minds to receive your leading in our lives, so that we may share your gifts with those we meet; **through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Rejoice The Lord Is King

***Rejoice in glorious hope!
Our Lord and judge shall come
And take His servants up to their eternal home:
Lift up your heart, Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!***

Prayer of Illumination

God of the prophets, who continually calls to us. **Fill us with your words of justice and joy so that your love may be revealed for the glory of God. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Selections from Acts 27 & 28

¹³⁻¹⁵ When a gentle southerly breeze came up, they weighed anchor, thinking it would be smooth sailing. But they were no sooner out to sea than a gale-force wind, the infamous nor'easter, struck. They lost all control of the ship. It was a cork in the storm...Wind and waves were battering us unmercifully, and we lost all hope of rescue. ²³⁻²⁶ “Last night God’s angel stood at my side, an angel of this God I serve, saying to me, ‘Don’t give up, Paul. You’re going to stand before Caesar yet—and everyone sailing with you is also going to make it.’ So, dear friends, take heart. I believe God will do exactly what he told me. But we’re going to shipwreck on some island or other.” ³³⁻³⁴ With dawn about to break, Paul called everyone together and proposed breakfast: “This is the

fourteenth day we've gone without food. None of us has felt like eating! But I urge you to eat something now. You'll need strength for the rescue ahead. You're going to come out of this without even a scratch!" ³⁵⁻³⁸He broke the bread, gave thanks to God, passed it around, and they all ate heartily—276 of us, all told! With the meal finished and everyone full, the ship was further lightened by dumping the grain overboard.

^{28:1-2} Once everyone was accounted for and we realized we had all made it, we learned that we were on the island of Malta. The natives went out of their way to be friendly to us. The day was rainy and cold and we were already soaked to the bone, but they built a huge bonfire and gathered us around it. ³⁻⁶Paul pitched in and helped. He had gathered up a bundle of sticks, but when he put it on the fire, a venomous snake, roused from its sleepiness by the heat, struck his hand and held on. Seeing the snake hanging from Paul's hand like that, the natives jumped to the conclusion that he was a murderer getting what he deserved. Paul shook the snake off into the fire like it was nothing. They kept expecting him to drop dead, but when it was obvious he wasn't going to, they jumped to the conclusion that he was a god! ⁷⁻⁹The head man in that part of the island was Publius. He took us into his home as his guests, drying us out and putting us up in fine style for the next three days. Publius's father was sick at the time, down with a high fever and dysentery. Paul went to the old man's room, and when he laid hands on him and prayed, the man was healed. Word of the healing got around fast, and soon everyone on the island who was sick came and got healed. ¹⁰⁻¹¹We spent a wonderful three months on Malta. They treated us royally, took care of all our needs and outfitted us for the rest of the journey. When an Egyptian ship that had wintered there in the harbor prepared to leave for Italy, we got on board. The ship had a carved Gemini for its figurehead: "the Heavenly Twins."

The Word of God, for the People of God.
Thanks Be to God. Amen.

Children's Time
Special Music

Witness *God in the Storm Changes Our Plans*

Music *Come, Thou Fount*

Joys & Concerns
Prayers of the People

Bless this earth, our island home

For the earth is yours and you made it.

Bless this nation with justice and peace

For the law is yours and you gave it.

Bless the holy catholic church

For the cornerstone is yours and you laid it.

Bless the generations that have gone before

For the communion of saints is yours and you host it.

Bless the sick and all those who hurt

For healing is yours and you grant it.

Bless the shamed and those who have failed

For the cross is yours and you bore it.

Bless the brokenhearted

For life is yours and you mend it.

Bless the lonely and forgotten

For love is yours and you abound with it.

Bless the dreamers and those who hope

For the promise is yours and you keep it.

Bless the faithful who sing to you

For all honor is yours and we boldly offer it.

Bless the joys and concerns of our hearts

**For you gather our prayers as we pray together, saying,
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.**

Offering & Prayer for the Gifts of the Community

O God, our hope, transform our gifts and the acts of giving into ministries of love and compassion to all the persons this church serves in your name. **Amen.**

Crown Him with Many Crowns

***Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.***

Benediction

Go forth from this time and place, rejoicing as God is with us when the storm changes our plans so that we may proclaim our love of God and each other in all that we say and do. May we live into this holy calling with those we encounter this week. May the blessing of God, Father, Son & Holy Spirit be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Up-Coming Events

Fellowship Time, Sunday, May 16 we will begin having fellowship time 9:50—10:50 outside. All are invited. Masks optional.

Sunday, May 23 Worship Changes

9 am service mask optional, limited music

11 am service, masked, choral & congregational singing

3Gs—Our senior “*ChickenFoot*” Domino group will meet May 27!

Church Anniversary Picnic, Sunday, June 6 we will celebrate our 41st Church Birthday. BYOP (Bring your own picnic as we eat out under the big tree and celebrate together.

Prayer List

Laura Arceneaux
Margaret Arceneaux
Paul Arceneaux, Jr.
Sidney Arceneaux
Kim Craigen Ard
Lucian Adams
Dolores Anderson
Vee Battaglio
Kathy Bahena
Brenda Bermaster
Lloyd Betar
Mary Bevil
Family of Nick Bihm
Roland Blanchard
Bonnie Blankenship
Donna Suppa Bolton
Jo Bordeaux
Pat Borel
Glenda Brooks
Jean Brooks
Kent Broussard
Ann Campbell
Norma Campbell
Robert & Roxie Castilaw
Jared Castolenia
Matthew Cerda
Tana Champeau
Rebecca Chance
Billie Cherry
Kim Wilber Conn
Derick Cooper
Kyle & Beth Craigen
Dakota Crutchfield
John & Emily Davis
Family of David Day
Bobbye Dean
Mary Delafosse
Tammy Dufour
Julie Duplichan
Keven Dupre

Marli Dupuy
Joe Floyd
Sheila Frederick
Lorene Green
Rachel Grimmett
Robert Hargraves
Toby & Summer Hatcher
Connie Hebert
MaryJo Hebert
Family of Susie Hesselteine
Edna & Raymond Jones
Selwyn Jones
Alice Kethley
Kristi Key
Bud Landry
Clyde Landry
Dora Mae LeDaux
Fred Ledesma
Alice & Louis Loftin
Jillaine Lucas
Orianna Marchand
Matt Markos
Barbara Martin
Randy & Shannon Mayfield
John McGee
Carlene Minaldi
Gary & Vicky Minaldi
Linda Meyers
Ron & Michelle Mueller
Joyce Murphy
Arnold Northcut
Kelly Simmons Owens
Jim & Ruby Parker
Family of Julie Peltier
Melva Phillips
Harlan Phipps
Mercedes Pierson
Kenny Puckett
Faye Porter
Charles Quinn

Regina Rahman-Wang
Eva Ramirez
Beverly Reese
Buddy Renkema
Nikki Castilaw Rice
Rachel Richard
Edward Rivet
Randy & Darlene Rivett
Floyd Roche
Ezekiel Romero
Joann Savelle
H.G. Schonenberg
Shawna Shaw
Loretta Shearer
Brooke Simon
The Smith Family
James Sowell
Kim Streed
Bob Taylor
Sadina Hammock Ward
Ronald Weeks
Mary Alice Weitzel
Herschel Williams
Mary Rose Williams
Gail Wright
Greta Zeralsky

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We are called to: **be transformed** by God's love, Christ's sacrifice and the Spirit's work in our lives; **be engaged** with all of God's children from the small to the tall, the near and the far; **celebrate**, worship & praise God as we care for each other; **share** the Good News of God's love in our thoughts, words and deeds.

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