



Worship on the Lawn

May 16, 2021

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Welcome! We pray that worship here at First UMC is a blessing for you, even as your presence blesses us. As we worship together outdoors, we want to invite you to remain masked and keep a safe distance from others the entire time we are together. Extra masks and hand sanitizer are available at the welcome stand. We also want to encourage you to sing the hymns softly and speak portions of the liturgy, all while remaining masked. If you would like more information about our church or it's ministries, feel free to introduce yourself to one of our Pastors. Mark, Chris, or Jenny would be happy to get to know you! Children are always welcome at worship here at First Church. There is a craft bag available for them today. Lastly, as we close worship together, it will be tempting for you to want visit with others and catch up. If you choose to do this, we want to encourage you to keep a safe and loving six feet of distance between yourself and others. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

WELCOME

SONG

Wonderful Words of Life

1. Sing them over again to me,
Wonderful words of life;
Let me more of their beauty see,
Wonderful words of life;
Words of life and beauty
Teach me faith and duty.

Refrain:

Beautiful words, wonderful words,
Wonderful words of life;
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
Wonderful words of life.

2. Christ, the blessed one, gives to all
Wonderful words of life;
Sinner, list to the loving call,
Wonderful words of life;
All so freely given,
Woing us to heaven. *Refrain*

3. Sweetly echo the gospel call,
Wonderful words of life;
Offer pardon and peace to all,
Wonderful words of life;
Jesus, only Savior,
Sanctify forever. *Refrain*

CENTERING WORSHIP

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
**or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;**
But their delight is in God's Word,
and on scripture they meditate day and night.
They are like trees planted by streams of water,
**which yield their fruit in season,
and their leaves do not wither.**

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God,
who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.
We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God,
and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.
We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God
who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.
We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures,
and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.
We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination,
and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.
We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road,
and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.
This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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....

SCRIPTURE

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus--for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us--one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Mark Flynn

"Cycles and Seasons"

SONG*How Firm a Foundation*, vs. 1, 2, 5

1. How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2. "Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed,
for I am your God, and will still give you aid.
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

5. "The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes.
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"

BENEDICTION

**"May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you: wherever he may send you;
May he guide through the wilderness: protect you through the storm;
May he bring you home rejoicing: at the wanders he has shown you;
May he bring you home rejoicing: once again into our doors."**

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: The Rev. Mark Flynn, *Lead Pastor*
Music: Jeff Kile, *Contemporary Music Director*
Josh Sumter, *Music Associate & Pianist*

(Lyrics reprinted under CCLI #1524077)