

May 21, 2020

To: WUMC List

Fr: Rev. Paul T. Stallsworth <paulstallsworth@nccumc.org>

Re: Easter VII/The Sunday after Ascension Day/Service of Worship

Dear Sisters, Brothers, and Friends:

Very late Easter Season grace and peace to you and yours.

I hope you are well during these last, warming-up days of May.

A surprising flower can bloom during a surprising season.

Take, for example, "Reading Barth Together." That is the name of an online course taught by Bishop William Willimon and Professor Stanley Hauerwas. Each Tuesday at 10 a.m., they take a platform on Zoom to discuss Karl Barth's Dogmatics in Outline (a commentary on The Apostles' Creed). Bp. Willimon has been the Minister to Duke University and now teaches at Duke Divinity School. Prof. Hauerwas is a moral theologian who taught for years at Duke Divinity School. And Karl Barth -- who stood with the Church universal and with the Church's historic faith -- is the greatest Protestant theologian of the 20th century. Sometimes the Willimon-Hauerwas discussion is out there. Sometimes it is inspirational. Sometimes it is thought provoking. In the end, it is usually rewarding. You can join their discussion by visiting Bp. Willimon's website ([willwillimon.com](http://willwillimon.com)) and scrolling down.

In his "Coronavirus Diary: New York, May 12" ([www.firstthings.com](http://www.firstthings.com)), Dr. R. R. Reno also provokes some thinking: "We live in a technocratic social order. Its 'sole aim' is not to control people. That's a mistaken view. But it is a regime in which material goods are supreme. The present public health challenges reinforce this technocratic social order, and for the expert class it makes complete sense to impose draconian measure of restriction and control in order to protect a material good such as physical health. In truth, most of New York welcomes these restrictions, even demands them. The technocrats do not 'impose.' The 'experts' minister to our fears and promise to deliver us. That's why it's a consensus, not a conspiracy."

Thank you for your continuing financial faithfulness to Whiteville United Methodist Church.

Below is the order of service and the prayer concerns for this coming Sunday morning -- Easter VII/The Sunday after Ascension Day, May 24. You are invited -- even encouraged -- to use this "bulletin" and participate in the worship service, as you listen to 1540 AM, 103.9 FM, or the Internet livestream (which can be reached through [www.whitevilleumc.org](http://www.whitevilleumc.org)).

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This Sunday at 10:00 a.m. (EDT) the following Worship Service is available on a radio (in/near Whiteville, NC) at 1540 AM and 103.9 FM, and at the website [www.whitevilleumc.org](http://www.whitevilleumc.org).

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WHITEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
902 Pinckney Street  
Whiteville, NC 28472  
910.642.3376

Seventh Sunday of Easter Season  
The Sunday after Ascension Day  
May 24, 2020  
10:00 a.m.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Lex Orandi Lex Credendi  
What We Pray Is What We Believe

PRELUDE

Mrs. Nan Leggett, Organist  
Preparing for worship, you are invited to discover the theme of today's service by reading through this order of service. Pray for those on the prayer list and all people facing challenges.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

GREETING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.

WELCOME -- TESTIMONIES -- WORDS OF PRAISE Testimonies, with a microphone, are invited.

\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Risen with Christ, let us seek the Holy Spirit.  
People: Our life is hidden with Christ in God.  
Pastor: He who descended is also ascended far above the heavens, that he might fill all things.  
People: When Christ, our life, appears, we shall appear with him in glory! Alleluia!

\*OPENING HYMN

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"/#154 UMH  
1. All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall; bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all. Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.  
2. Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall, hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all. Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.

3. Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall, go spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all. Go spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.

4. Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball, to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all. To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.

5. Crown him, ye martyrs of your God, who from his altar call; extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod, and crown him Lord of all. Extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod, and crown him Lord of all.

6. O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall! We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all. We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.

#### \*OPENING PRAYER

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

##### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into heaven, you are the way of peace. Come into the darkness and brokenness of our lives, our church, and our land with your radiant love. Help us to be willing to bow before you in true repentance, and to give to one another real forgiveness. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, melt our hard hearts, and consume the pride and prejudice which separate us. Fill us, O Lord, with your perfect love, which casts out our fear, and bind us together in that unity which you share with the Father and the Holy Spirit. In your Name we pray. Amen.

#### WORDS OF PARDON

Pastor: "And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you." (I Peter 5:10, NRSV) In the name of Jesus Christ, Son of God and born of Mary, crucified and risen, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God! Amen!

\*THE PEACE Love. Greet. Welcome. Apologize.  
Forgive.

\*CHORUS

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his  
righteousness, and all these things shall be added  
unto you. Allelu, alleluia! (twice)

\*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

\*RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-5/#792-3 UMH

Pastor: Let God arise, let God's enemies be  
scattered; let those who hate God flee!

People: As smoke is driven away, so drive them  
away; as wax melts before fire, let the wicked  
perish before God!

Pastor: But let the righteous be joyful; let them  
exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy!

People: Sing to God, sing praises to God's name;  
lift up a song to the One who rides upon the  
clouds; exult before the One whose name is Lord!

Pastor: In the holy habitation, God is father of  
orphans and protector of widows.

People: God gives the desolate a home to dwell in,  
and leads out the prisoners to prosperity; but the  
rebellious dwell in a parched land.

Pastor: O God, when you went forth before your  
people, when you marched through the wilderness.

People: The earth quaked, the heavens poured down  
water, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at  
the presence of God, the God of Israel.

Pastor: Rain in abundance, O God, you shed abroad;  
you restored your heritage as it languished.

People: Your flock found a dwelling in it; in your  
goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

Pastor: Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing  
praises to the Lord.

People: O Rider in the heavens, the ancient  
heavens; God's voice goes forth, a mighty voice.

Pastor: Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over  
Israel, and whose power is in the skies.

People: Wondrous is God in the sanctuary, the God  
of Israel, who gives power and strength to the  
people.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 1:6-14

EPISTLE LESSON

I Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

\*GLORY BE TO THE FATHER (Gloria Patri)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the  
Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and  
ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

\*THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

ANTHEM

"Unseen Blessings" by Mark Hayes

Mr. L. A.

Cothern/Baritone and Mrs. Leggett/Accompanist

\*GOSPEL LESSON

John 17:1-11

SERMON

"Jesus Ascended -- What Now?"

Rev. Paul T. Stallsworth

PARISH CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO OFFER OURSELVES, AND OUR GIFTS, TO GOD

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERINGS

\*CLOSING HYMN

"Lord, I

Want to Be a Christian"/#402 UMH

1. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. In my heart, in my heart. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

2. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart. In my heart, in my heart. Lord, I want to

be more loving in my heart.

3. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart. In my heart, in my heart. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

4. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart. In my heart, in my heart. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

\*ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE CHURCH Please use a microphone.

\*CARRYING FORTH THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

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Mrs. Leggett, Organist

\*Please stand if you are able.

Prayer Concerns: People directly devastated (in so many different ways) by the Coronavirus pandemic, those developing new medicines, healthcare workers, chaplains, the unemployed, Sarah Meares (Elizabethtown Nursing Center, Room 211/P.O. Box 1449/208 Mercer Road/Elizabethtown, NC 28337), Rev. Eilene Bisgrove (retired deacon), Susan Deans, Tony Gore, Rev. Paul Crikelair's family, the family of Ed Whitehead, the family of Richard Geary, the family of Linda Overcash (Linda's brother Donald recently died), Betty and Gary Faircloth, Kenneth Smith (please send a note/card to his new address: Mr. Kenneth Smith/Liberty Commons Rehab Center -- Room 47/121 Racine Drive/ Wilmington, NC 28403), Bill Brooks, and Ryan Stallsworth.

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Remember to call the Church Office (642-3376) if you are in need of something.

Continue faithful, to Christ and His Church, for the sake of the world.

In Christ,

Rev. Paul T. Stallsworth  
Whiteville United Methodist Church  
902 Pinckney Street  
Whiteville, NC 28472  
910.642.3376church  
910.207.6389home