



Valley United Methodist Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, May 16, 2021—9:00 a.m.

ASCENSION / SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Celebrating our Graduates

Gathering Music	<i>Minuet in C</i> <i>Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life</i> <i>A Trumpet Tune</i>	Haydn Arr. Glycannon Denton
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Welcome

*Call to Worship	<p>At the cross, Lord, you lifted Jesus up, as he laid down his life for us all. His friends wept for the hoped-for future that now seemed lost. On Easter morning, Lord, you rose from the dead, and life and hope returned. Amazement, fear, and wonder gripped all who saw and heard. On that most unsettling ascension day, Lord, you drew Jesus to your side. You asked his friends to trust a future they were yet unable to see. We too know loss, and confusion, and change, yet you are our God, and we are your people. And so we trust the future you still bring, day by day.</p>
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*Opening Hymn *Because He Lives* (UMH 364), stanzas 1 & 2

1-God sent his Son, they called him Jesus;
he came to love, heal, and forgive;
he lived and died to buy my pardon,
an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Refrain

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;
because he lives, all fear is gone;
because I know he holds the future,
and life is worth the living just because he lives.

2-How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
and feel the pride and joy Jesus gives;
but greater still the calm assurance,
this child can face uncertain days because he lives. *Refrain*

*Opening Prayer **Holy One, you come to us with nourishment beyond all knowing.
You lift all things out of the dust,
you breathe life into every cell,
you call us into communion with you,
and you claim victory over death.
Claim us in turn as resurrection changes us for good.
Blessed be your holy name now and forever. Amen.**

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year B, vol. 1 (2014), 147, adapted

*Peace The peace of Christ is with you.
And also with you.

Time with Children

Gospel Reading Luke 24.44-53

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you— that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Message Turning the Page. What now?

Celebrating Our Graduates

Introduction and Witness

Litany

God of truth and knowledge, bless Jaden, Kristen, and Ryley.

This is a time of endings and a time for beginnings.

We thank you for those who have taught and worked beside them,
and all who have supported them along the way.

We pray for these graduates, for wisdom,
that they may walk in clarity and grace;

for protection,

that their footsteps might be secure;

for blessing and favor,

that your powerful light would shine on them;

for guidance and direction,

for each new journey and challenge they face;

for peace,

that they might not be anxious about anything;

for godly friendships,

that they might walk with the wise and become wise;

for courage,

equipped for every purpose and bold to stand for what is right;

for hope,

filled with your spirit and power to dream big dreams;

for joy and laughter,

that they might always praise you with happy voices;

and for faithfulness,

that they might always seek you with their whole hearts.

Give these our siblings a confidence in the future you plan, Lord,

where energies may be gathered up

and used for the good of all people;

for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

adapted from *United Methodist Book of Worship* (1992), 536,
and from "10 Prayers for the Graduate," crosswalk.com

A Farewell

...Together we have laughed and cried,
together we have worshiped and praise God,
together we have lived.

**We feel sorrow in your leaving,
yet we rejoice with you in anticipation
of this new phase of your life.**

**We will miss your presence and support,
yet we know you will add much to the lives
of those to whom you are now sent,
in church, and in your residence,
as you have added much to our lives.**

We will pray for you and for the whole family of God.

adapted from United Methodist Book of Worship (1992), 590

Response

On Eagle's Wings (UMH 143)

And God will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of God's hand.

Time of Prayer

⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

— John 17.6-19

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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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.

Response

I Have Seen (Richard Bruxvoort Colligan)

I have seen.
I know what I know.
I will not be the same.

Time of Offering

Prayer adapted from Teresa of Avila, 1515-1582

**God of love, help us remember
that Christ has no body now on earth but ours,
no hands but ours, no feet but ours.
Ours are the eyes to see the needs of the world.
Ours are the hands to bless the people we meet.
Ours are the feet to do good in Christ's name.
Bless, O God, the work of our hands
and these offerings,
that they may be Christ's work in the world. Amen.**

Abingdon Worship Annual 2021, 97

Closing Song

Crown Him with Many Crowns (UMH 327), stanzas 1-2, 4

1-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.

2-Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

4-Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

Benediction

Postlude

A Bright, New Trumpet

Martin

Photo by [MD Duran](#) on [Unsplash](#). *I Have Seen* words and music by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan ©2021 Worldmaking.net (ASCAP). Lyrics reprinted under CCLI License # 1530449. Livestream under CCLI Streaming License # 20723100. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calendar: Week of May 16-23

Please contact the church office for Zoom links for events happening online.

TODAY, Sunday, May 16	9:00 a.m.	Worship-Graduation Sunday
		Fellowship Time-Zoom
Tuesday, May 18		Valley View Deadline
	6:30 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday, May 19	4:00 p.m.	Prayer Group-Zoom
	6:30 p.m.	50th Anniversary Team-Zoom
Friday, May 21	4:00 p.m.	Crawford/Asche Rehearsal
Saturday, May 22	3:00 p.m.	Crawford/Asche Wedding
Sunday, May 23	9:00 a.m.	Worship-Pentecost

Ushers for Worship: Thank you to those of you who have stepped up to Usher for our worship services these past months. We are currently asking for more volunteers to be part of the rotation. Please consider this opportunity to serve by notifying Sheila in the church office: 515-225-8128 or office@valleyumc.org.

The June Valley View Deadline is next Tuesday, May 18: Please plan to submit your articles, pictures or calendar dates by Tuesday.

50th Anniversary Celebration: As you may know, Valley UMC will celebrate our 50th birthday on September 19, and we're planning a 30-minute Talent Show after our lunch that Sunday. All are welcome to add to the fun with your talent! Come one, come all! Contact Joyce Templeman at 225-2846 or jtempo@mac.com for further details.

West Des Moines Human Services Need of the Month: SOAP AND DEODORANT. Feel free to drop items off at the lower doors (just ring the bell) and Emory Cleveland will deliver them to Human Services later this month.

**UPCOMING SPECIAL SUNDAYS
at Valley UMC**

We hope you will join us!

May 23 Pentecost

We'll celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit which gives birth to
The Church.

******Wear RED, the color for Pentecost******

May 30 Memorial Day

Peace with Justice Sunday

June 20 Father's Day