

Order of Worship
Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 21, 2023



Grace Lutheran Church
745 S. Ingraham Avenue
Lakeland, Florida 33801
863-686-5585
www.gracelakeland.com

Welcome to the Seventh Sunday of Easter

We rejoice that Easter is not merely one Sunday but instead extends for 50 days. We call this season "The Great Fifty Days!" The joy of our worship on Easter Sunday in the Festival of the Resurrection continues today. Our worship is the foundation of our life together through which we are nurtured in the faith, grow as disciples of Jesus and offer ourselves in service to others in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

We hope that you will find much in our worship and fellowship that captures your interest and wonder -- perhaps the beauty of the stained glass images or the hand-crafted cross behind the altar, the music of the band will touch a special chord for you. You may want to visit our Memorial Garden to enjoy God's good creation in the beauty of the native plants as well as the gurgling of the fountain surrounded by the remembrance of many on whose shoulders we stand. After services, we invite you to join us for refreshments in Fellowship Hall where we can visit with one another.

Whether you are a regular worshiper with us, a seasonal resident, or a visitor, we welcome you because God's grace extends to all.

May God bless our time together!

Pastor Pam

Some Practical Things:

- **Children:** All children, even those who chat or cry or squawk, are welcome here. Some may enjoy one of the children's activity bags that an usher can provide.
- **Restrooms** are located outside of the narthex or lobby; ushers can further direct you.
- **Holy Communion:** We celebrate this Sacrament every Sunday. All baptized Christians are welcome at this, the Lord's Table. You will find more information in this worship folder. Our ushers will help guide you.
- **Offerings:** Those who desire to give an offering can do so using the envelopes in the pew, the "Give" button on our webpage or the Tithely app. We are happy to provide assistance with any of these if that would be helpful to you. Thank you for your generosity.

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At
the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us
heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower
us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace and
love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!

ELW 393



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives
3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up - on the
4 "You see him now, as-cend-ing high up to the por-tals of the
5 O ris - en Christ, as-cend-ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
stand, Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! and with his faith-ful fol-l'wers
sky?" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav-ior!" thus they
sky:" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall
cord: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! You are, while end-less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.
see their Lord as-cend in maj - es - ty.
say, "this is his glo-rious tri-umph day!" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le -
see re - turn-ing in great maj - es - ty."
run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

GREETING

HYMN OF PRAISE

Now the Feast and Celebration

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Acts 1:6-14

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They 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."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 68:1-10, 32-35 *(read responsively by full verse)*

- ¹Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;
let those who hate God flee.
- ²**As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the
presence of God.**
- ³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.
- ⁴**Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the
clouds; I AM is that name, rejoice before God!**
- ⁵In your holy habitation, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;
- ⁶**you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in desert places.**
- ⁷O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,
- ⁸**the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of
God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**
- ⁹You sent a bountiful rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance when it languished.
- ¹⁰**Your people found their home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**
- ³²Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.
- ³³**You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**
- ³⁴Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.
- ³⁵**How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6}Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah





Music: Caribbean traditional

GOSPEL: John 17:1-11

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

¹After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN

Rejoice, for Christ is King!

ELW 430

1 Re - joice, for Christ is king! Your Lord and king a - dore;
2 Our Sav - ior Je - sus reigns, the God of truth and love;
3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heav'n;
4 He sits at God's right hand till all his foes sub - mit

re - joice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more:
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove:
the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n:
and bow to his com - mand and fall be - neath his feet:

Refrain
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; re -

joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

Hear Our Prayer



Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:
peace to all people, hope for each soul.
God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of harmony, as you drew your son to your side, you draw us to you and unite us with the planet and one another. Weave your church together in a web of mutual love for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

As your Spirit hovered over the waters of creation, so your Spirit hovers over all that you have made. Bless the water that sustains the planet and grant wisdom to use it wisely. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You empower your people with the fire of your Spirit. Challenge activists and organizers, teachers and politicians, and all in leadership to speak a message of peace and justice. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You care for all your children. Show your steadfast love to those suffering isolation, especially exiles, refugees, or prisoners. Break the chains of all held fast by systemic oppression of any kind. Comfort all who are afraid or suffering from illness of any kind, particularly *Arlene, Sherry, Mabel, Mike, Anna Mae, Kaden, Julie, Carol, Anne, Lydia, Paul, Wil, Betty, Bob, Jane, Scott, Ron, Flo, Terry, Doris, Dottie, Theresa, Marian, Tim, Betty, Bev, Julie, Henry, Mary, Greg, and Max*. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks that humankind serves as your body in the world, stewarding your abundant gifts. Guide this congregation's leaders as they seek your will. We pray for our staff and council. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Other petitions may be offered.

You raise your saints to new life in Christ. We give you thanks for all your saints who have given us glimpses of your redeeming love. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
Amen.

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

Peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

✠ MEAL ✠

OFFERING

You may place your offerings in the offering plate as it is passed during the service. Alternatively, some are using the [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) app for online giving or are using their bank's online banking option. Whichever way you choose to give, we are grateful for your stewardship and generosity.

MUSICAL OFFERING



OFFERING SONG

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 184

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are: 'Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of'. The second staff continues the melody: 'bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that'. The third staff: 'we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of'. The fourth staff: 'all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble'. The fifth staff concludes the phrase: 'with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.' The score ends with a double bar line.

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self.
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One.
In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOG

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter
and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a quarter rest, the second with a half note, the third with a quarter rest, the fourth with a half note, and the fifth with a whole note.

Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you,
O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures
from age to age.

Praise to you for creating
the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth

from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing
the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading
your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds
of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and
resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit
poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it,
and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,
saying: This cup
is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover
from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us
in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up
as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice,
peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.
Amen.

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 and ever. Amen.**

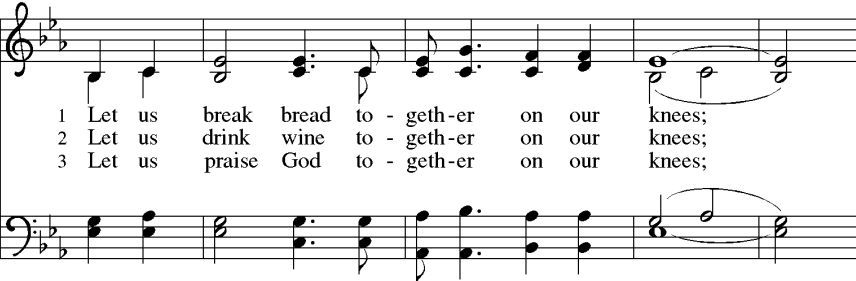
DISTRIBUTION

The baptized children of God are invited by the Lord to the Lord's Table where we receive Jesus' very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. We commune at the head of the aisle where we receive the host. Then to Pastor's side is first, a chalice for intinction and second, a common cup for drinking, and a third chalice of juice. Gluten free bread is available. If you wish to commune, but cannot come forward, let an usher know and Pastor will come to you. If you do not wish to commune, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. You may wish to remain at the rail for a time of personal prayer following which you may return to your pew down the side aisle.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take
a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - - men.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first line of music corresponds to the first line of lyrics, and so on. The final line of music ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The lyrics "A - - - men." are written below the final line of music, with a long dash indicating a sustained note or a pause.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION *Let Us Break Bread Together* ELW 471



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

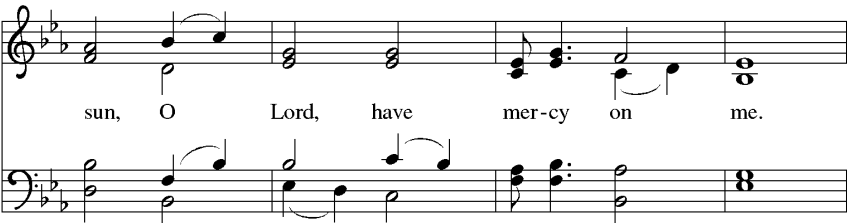


let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

HYMN AFTER COMMUNION

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being.
With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life
together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus'
name.
Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

SENDING HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns
(next page)

ELW 855

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave
 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,

hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



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Rejoice, for Christ is King! Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: William E. Fischer, 1849-1936.

Crown Him with Many Crowns. Text: Matthew Bridges, 1880-1894; sts. 1-3,5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4. Music: George J. Eley, 1816-1893. Public domain.

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Now the Feast and Celebration, Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950. Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.

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Over recent months we have added video and audio equipment to our sanctuary to livestream our worship services over Facebook, YouTube, or other platforms and also to have them available for later viewing through our website. Likewise, we may use still photography of church activities for church communications, websites, and other uses. By your presence with us, you acknowledge that you may be photographed and you consent to our use of it for these purposes. The video capture of congregants is minimal and will usually be from the back. If you want to be sure that you will not be shown on any video, we recommend sitting near the back on the left side of the sanctuary.