

JASPER UNITED CHURCH
May 21, 2023; 7th Sunday of Easter

Mission Statement

“Our mission is to worship God and deepen our Christian faith.
We strive to seek justice, be an inclusive, caring and accepting
community, and to be stewards of God’s world.”

We are each other’s harvest. . .
— Gwendolyn Brooks

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome

Territorial Acknowledgement

Announcements

Celebrations and Remembrances

Settling Moment: Don’t Be Afraid

MV 90

In the quiet of your listening, you are invited to rest your thoughts
and prepare your hearts and minds to worship God.

Call to Worship

Why are you here? **We come seeking!**

Why are you here? **We long for a vision of God’s peace and glory.**

Why are you here? **Eternal life!**

Come and know God’s presence.

Christ is the gift of eternal life for all.

In Christ, we are one. **We come to worship God who makes us one.**

Lighting the Christ Candle

Christ is risen. **He has risen, indeed.**

In Christ’s resurrection, God has spoken.

This indeed is God’s world.

God’s way of peace and justice will ultimately prevail.

Christ is risen.

(Christ Candle is lit)

Christ is risen, indeed. Hallelujah!

Opening Hymn: He Is Lord

Steve Vest

Opening Prayer

We come to you, oh God. To sing your praises

We come to you, oh God.

In the uncertainty that never seems far from us

We come to you, oh God. To lay down our burdens

We come to you, oh God. In the craving of our desires

We come to you, oh God. In the silence of our hearts

We come to you, oh God In the tender shoots of hope

We come to you, oh God To be known and to know

We come to you, oh God. Giving voice to our hope, we proclaim your

holy presence. Let your name be known to us, God,

May we be united with you as one in Christ,

Our power and our strength. Amen

Prayer of Transformation

Loving God, by your Holy Spirit, you make us one with you, united in
spirit with the saints in heaven and on earth. But we don’t always live
united with you and each other. Too often we allow our own needs to
drive our agendas, so afraid of being hurt or abandoned we forget you
dwell within us. We forget that you have given us spirits of strength
and power. We forget we are glorified in and with your love. By your
grace, help us to live as a united people, striving for a vision of the
world so infiltrated with love, all will shimmer in your glory. All will
know they belong. We will know we belong. Grant to us courage and
grace to be the people you imagine us to be.

In Jesus’ name, we ask. Amen

Words of Assurance

Jesus assures us that as he is one with God, so too are we one with
him. In this oneness, we too are Children of a most loving God.

Thanks be to God.

Conversation Time

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Open our hearts and minds to hear your word proclaimed for us today as the words of sacred story are spoken. And in our listening and hearing, by your grace, let your word reside in us. Amen

Scripture Readings:

Acts 7:22-31, John 14: 15-21

This is the witness of God's people! **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

Hymn: Holy Spirit, Hear us

VU 377

GOD NURTURES – WE RESPOND

Mission & Service

Offering Invitation

Offering Hymn: This Is the Day that God Has Made (refrain) VU 175

Offering Prayer

Easter reminds us of God's generous love for us. With thanksgiving and deep gratitude, we offer our gifts for God's use. May they be used to further God's justice and love in the world. Amen

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

VU 960

WE GO FORTH

Closing Hymn: I Am Walking a Path of Peace

MV 221

Sending Out and Blessing

Postlude

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God

Worship Leader: Rev. Linda McLaren

Musician: Carol Vien