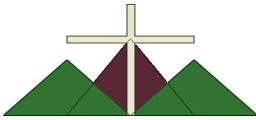




**Ascension of Our Lord Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 16, 2021 ❖ 9:30 am
Outdoor Lawn Chair Service
ZOOM 706 565 767, Passcode 767**

**SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
4887 Valleydale Road, Birmingham, AL 35242**

(205) 995-9673 www.sothl.org



**Welcome to
Shepherd of the
Hills
Lutheran Church**
"A Place to Call Home"

Our Mission Statement

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church seeks to demonstrate God's grace, to learn and grow in the Christian faith, and to serve with humility.

Our Welcoming Statement

As an inclusive congregation, we welcome all into God's love and grace without regard to:

*Ability * Age * Beliefs * Culture * Ethnicity * Gender Identity * Income * Language
* Life Circumstances * Marital Status * Race * Sexual Orientation*

As God's grace welcomes all, we are united in Christ

Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you need assistance following the order of worship, feel free to ask your neighbor for help. May this time of worship encourage and strengthen you for the week ahead. We hope you'll worship with us again.

Pastor: Carolyn Hayford (803) 606-6683

Musician: Ann Jones (205) 902-2444

Soloist: Eric Campbell

Secretary: Kenya Harris (205) 995-9673

Council President: Jared Brunswick (205) 531-5428

Serving us today in Worship:

Worship Assistant: Susan Pritchett

Zoomster: Peggy Huckabaa

Reader: Dorothy McMullin

Audio: Tom Trammel

Children's Message: Jeanne Trammel

Music: Ann Jones

Ushers: John Boettner, Will Breland, Bob Oster, Bart Jones

Please check out our new and improved website: www.sothl.org.

Note that pictures taken at various church events and services are posted on both our website and our Facebook page. If you do not want your picture to appear on our page or on the web site for any reason, please alert the church office at office@sothl.org or 205-995-9673 so that your request can be honored.

We pray that our time together will be an inspiration to all. Our order of worship is Setting Three from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW red). Our order of worship is printed in its entirety below.
Congregation responses are indicated in **bold** print, P: Pastor, C: **Congregation**

Order of Worship

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 16, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear SOTH members,

We are excited to learn that a Little Free Library will soon be on our campus. Like the food pantry, it will be available to anyone 24/7 to take a book and hopefully share a book. But we need your help. If you have any inspirational books or games that you would be willing to donate to the church it would be very much appreciated. We would also like to put a wooden picnic table near the LFL so that folks could play games or read if they wish. Your donations will go toward educating people about the good things God has to offer.

Meditation

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

A: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Sit/Kneel

A: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN
Wells, Soloist

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness ELW 843 *Christine*

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Let us pray.

A: Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE FIRST READING Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

In the days between Jesus' ascension and Pentecost, Peter oversees the process whereby one of the members of the community of believers is chosen to be the twelfth apostle, in order to fill the vacancy created by Judas's treachery and death.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶"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—¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning 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." ²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Please read responsively Psalm 1 printed below.

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful! ²**Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.** ³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.⁴**It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.** ⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous. ⁶**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous**

SECOND READING 1 John 5:9--13

God has borne witness to the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. Whoever believes in the Son of God believes in the witness of God and has the promise of eternal life.

⁹If we receive human testimony; the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. ¹⁰Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL John 17:6-19

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In this reading the church hears Jesus' words on the night before his death. This gospel reports the words of Jesus' prayer, a prayer for his disciples and for all who would believe in him through their words.

[Jesus prayed:] 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you. O Christ

THE SERMON

THE HYMN OF THE DAY Come Now, O Prince of Peace ELW 247 *Christine Wells, Soloist*

THE NICENE CREED (*ELW page 104*)

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offering Boxes are at entrance / exits. Please place when entering or exiting only.

THE OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray together,

C: Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Note: During the Eucharistic Prayer, you will hear the Pastor say

P: Great is the mystery of faith

The people respond by saying

C: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Please speak whichever version, in whatever language, you prefer.)

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

A: God's love is poured out in Christ for you. Open yourselves to receive it.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY COMMUNION *Those in cars will receive communion first. Ushers will direct you. We believe that in this sacrament Christ comes to us in, with and under the elements of bread and wine. These are Christ's body and blood given and shed for us and for all people. All who wish to receive are welcome. Grape juice is available instead of wine.*

Communion Music

Dismissal will occur to individual pods after communion.

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Next Week's Lessons

THE FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-21

PSALM: 104:24-34, 35b

THE SECOND READING: Rom 8:2-27

THE GOSPEL: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Intercessory Prayer

We are a praying community; believing in the value of prayer. We ask that you keep the congregation, our community, and all those on the prayer list insert in your prayers during the week. Prayer request cards can be found in the Narthex or in the back of the hymnal. Please utilize the Intercessory Prayer insert during your prayers this week.

Worship Servants for May 23

Worship Assistant: Ron Wooster **Zoomster:** Erica Bjornstad
Reader: John Boettner **Audio:** Joel Bjornstad
Children's Message: Kim Boettner **Music:** Ann Jones
Ushers: Mike Huckabaa, Bob Oster, Bernard Troncale, Carla Crowder

THIS WEEK AT SOTH

Sunday 5/16	9:30 am	Lawn Chair & E-Worship	Meeting ID 706 565 767 , Pass code 767
	12:00 pm	Council Meeting	
Monday	7:00pm	AA – New Hope	
	7:00 pm	SOTH Covid Task Force	Meeting ID 706 565 767 , Pass code 767
Tuesday	6:00pm	Shepherd's Bells Rehearsal	
	7:00pm	Covid-19 Q&A	Meeting ID 997 505 114
Wednesday	9:30am	Wednesday Bible Study	Meeting ID 175 995 438
	6:30pm	Prayer, Meditation and Conversation	Meeting ID 706 565 767 , Pass code 767
Thursday	7:00pm	T.M 2.0	Meeting ID 982 3058 1708
Friday			
Saturday			

MY YOUNG FREINDS, today's Bible story is about Matthias the Apostle on page 500 in your *Spark's Story Bible*. If you don't have a *Spark's Story Bible* you can read the story in Acts 1:15-26 in any Bible.

COVID-19 Notifiers: The COVID Task Force has established the following process to ensure we do not need to modify our current procedures and to help identify a potential cluster early: Anyone who attends a church even (even parking lot ones) or has been in the church building for any reason, and tests positive for COVID within 2 weeks of being here, is asked to contact one of the volunteers on this list below. Your name will be kept completely confidential. Thank you! Jared Brunswick, 205-531-5428, jrdbrunswick@yahoo.com; Erica Bjornstad, 443-717-0065, ericaecuador@yahoo.com; Susan Pritchett, 205-602-1282, sspritch@bellsouth.net.



WORSHIP MUSIC - Wondering about the beautiful music you hear in our worship service? It's Eric Campbell's voice. The piano is played by Ann Jones. We appreciate them sharing their gifts to the glory of God.

SUNDAY – E - WORSHIP:

Sundays at 9:30 am. Consider signing on early to catch up with friends and family. The room is open at 9:00 am. Click on the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/706565767?pwd=MjJMbElyM2pNMkkvaHJWNW1YSHU0UT09>

Or Call this number: 1-312-626-6799 Enter Meeting ID 706 565 767, Passcode 767

SUNDAY – SPANISH PRAYER MINISTRY:

Led by Pastor Ed Cortes – 1st Sunday in the Month at 1:00pm

Click this link: <https://zoom.us/j/88295986939>

Or Call this number: 1-646-558-8656 Enter Meeting ID: 882-9598-6939

MONDAY – SOTH COVID TASK FORCE:

Mondays at 7:00PM

Click this link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/997505114>

Or Call this number: 1-312-626-6799 Enter Meeting ID 706 565 767, Passcode 767

TUESDAY – COVID-19 Q&A:

A question and answer session with Erica Bjornstad, pediatrician epidemiologist, regarding current status of COVID-19 which has morphed into a Friendly support group. If you do have any questions about COVID-19 or just want to check in with some friendly folks. Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

Click this link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/997505114>

Or Call this number: 1-312-626-6799 Enter meeting ID: 997 505 114

WEDNESDAY – BIBLE STUDY:

Wednesday at 9:30am

Click this link: <https://zoom.us/j/175995438>

Or Call this number: 1-312-626-6799 Enter Meeting ID: 175 995 438

WEDNESDAY – LYDIA CIRCLE:

All women are welcome to join. First Wednesday of the month at 9:30 am

Click this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/524874986>

Or Call this number: 1-312-626-6799 Enter meeting ID: 524 874 986

WEDNESDAY PRAYER, MEDITATION & CONVERSATION

Currently we are talking about race and related topics. Join Pastor Carolyn and your church friends to talk openly in a safe space. Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 pm

Click this link: <https://zoom.us/j/706565767>

Or Call this number: 1-312-626-6799 Enter Meeting ID 706 565 767, Passcode 767

THURSDAY – TM2.0

Every Thursday at 7:00pm





Click this link: <https://zoom.us/j/98230581708>

Or Call this number: 1-312-626-6799 Enter meeting ID: 982 3058 1708

COVID-19 Indicators to Guide Phased Re-opening

5/13/2021

See Note.

Goal	Source	Current	Trend	Status	Last Week
Decrease in new daily cases (14 day ave.)	A	Flat		Yes	Flat
Disease burden < 3-5 per 100,000	B	7.6		No	7.2
Sufficient Testing > 7400 tests / day	A	8,278		Yes	8,487
Test positivity < 3-5%	B	6.0%		No	5.6%

^ASource: Alabama Department of Public Health Covid 19 Dashboard

^BSource: Covidactnow.org

NOTE: Numbers are starting to stabilize after a data dump in the Alabama Health Dept. database.

SOTH is currently in Phase 2 which includes limited small group gatherings and outdoor activities.

NOTE: When moving to a less restrictive phase, it is recommended to remain in that phase for a period of time

SOTH is currently in Phase 2B per Church Council. Phase 2B includes limited (10 or less) small groups upstairs, limited small group of up to 20 people downstairs and outdoor activities.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

HELP: We need people willing to assist with worship. Please consider stepping into a new role such as audio. We also need folks to assist as zoomsters, readers, children's messages & ushers. How is the Holy Spirit nudging you? Not sure you are up to it? Give it a try- Grace Abounds!

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.
John 17:9 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 17:6-11 (NIV).



B L X K A Z F F A T H E R X P
G L S S M Y O U R S E N J R E
M O K E E C P T N D A B A P R
I N C T D G W I E G A V E M X
N G V M P O A Y T G X X W R E
E E Y J N M E A N V D B V K P
E R K K E B W I C C H O L Y L
I C U R O H H O A C L R J X R
S S E N T T P H R M E D T C W
G L O R Y O T R Y D P P N O H
P W A R N C I D O D U R T M L
W O E A Y Y L Q A T I W A E Z
V V W O Q R R B E V E B L Y D
E T F E O S Y W I K I C S W V
A T T W R J Y R G I X P T I X

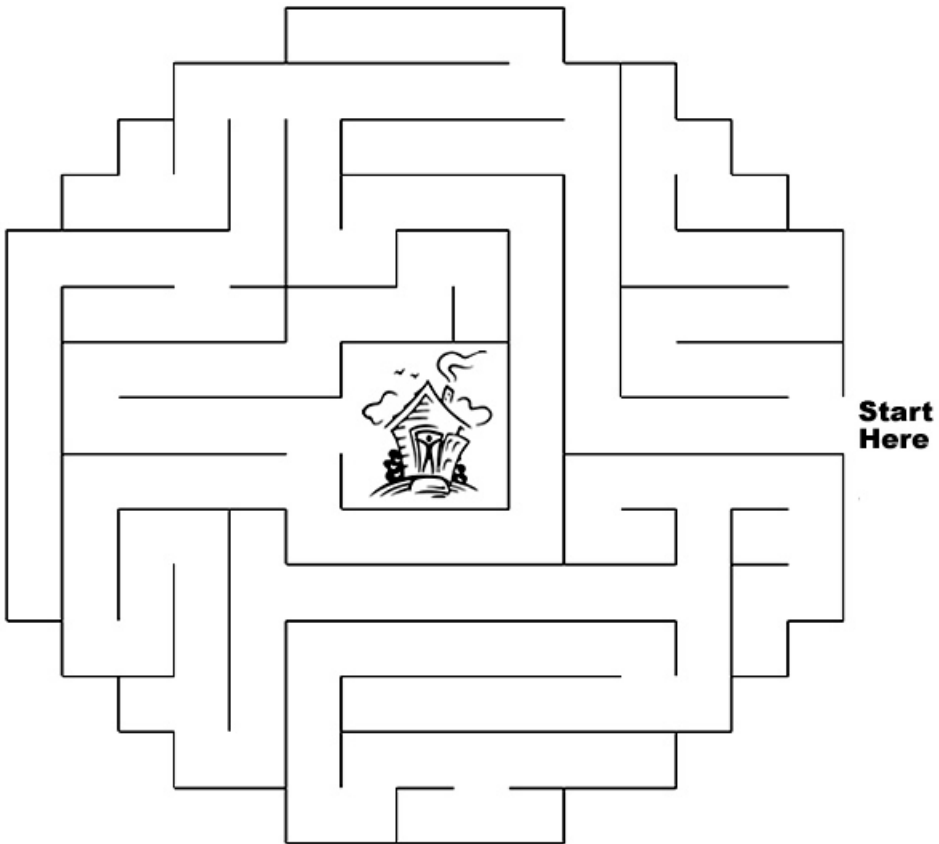
POWER	GLORY	ACCEPTED	WORD	YOURS
EVERYTHING	KNOW	PRAY	MINE	GAVE
PROTECT	OBEYED	HOLY	NAME	SENT
LONGER	FATHER	COME	WORLD	REMAIN

Through Lifes Maze

Maze

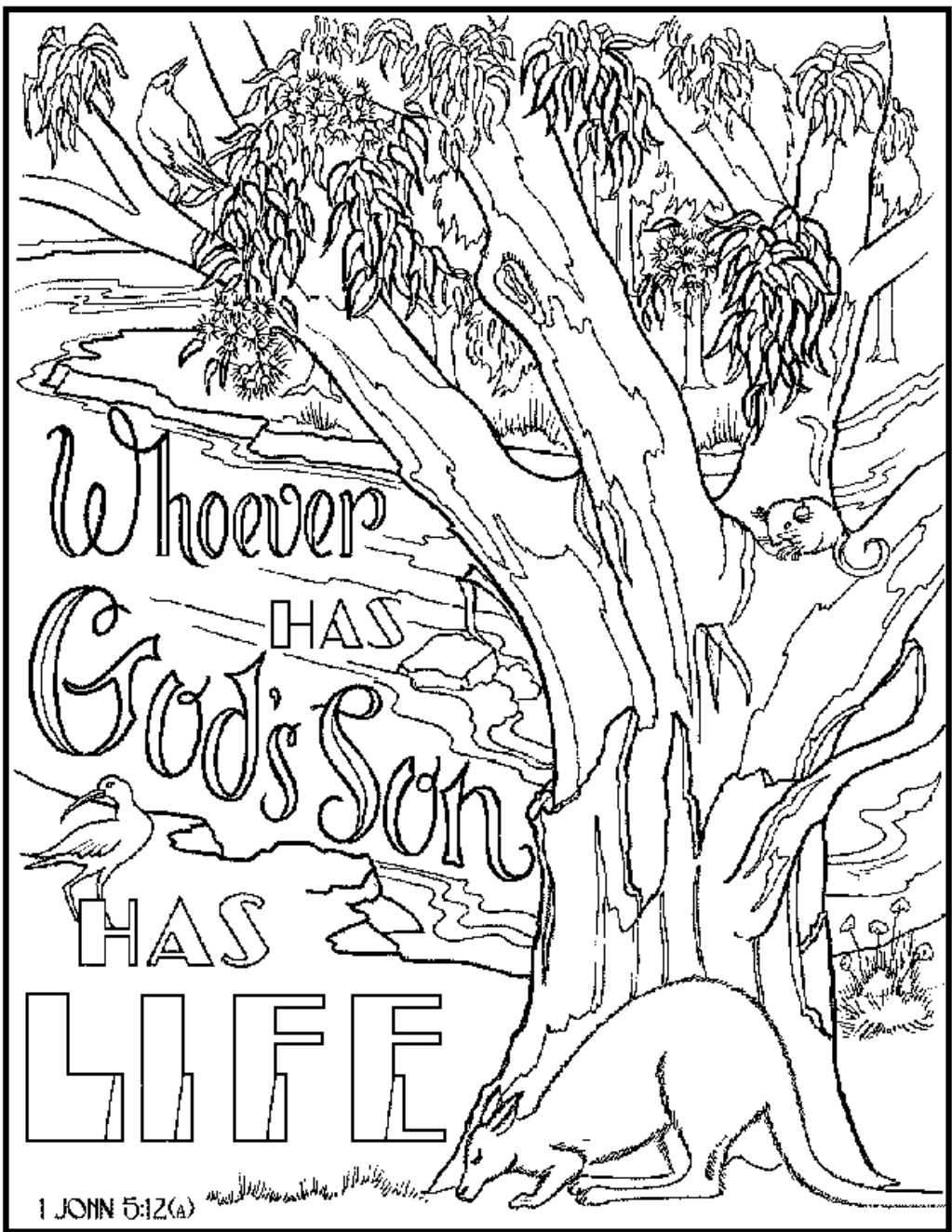
Through Life's Maze

Can you find your way home?



I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name.

John 17:11a (NIV)



1 JOHN 5:12(A)

Council Members

Ray Allen, Facilities Committee Liaison

Karen Bishop, Learning Committee Liaison

Joel Bjornstad, Fellowship Committee Liaison

Brooke Breland, Secretary

Jared Brunswick, President

Carol Dotson, Worship Committee Liaison

Mike Huckabaa, Stewardship Committee Liaison

Roger Sinkey, Vice President

Tracy Teague, Outreach Committee Liaison

*****Outdoor Lawn Chair Service 5/16 at 9:30 am.*****

We are excited about trying our new experiment: Outdoor lawn chair service.

The service will also be on Zoom using **Meeting ID 706 565 767** and **PASSCODE 767**. There will not be a waiting room, so you need the passcode to join.

We will be using paper bulletins for the service.

We will be parking in the lower lot and gathering in the upper lot to worship together.

Masks and physical distancing apply. We love each other and our neighbors by following CDC guidelines.

Please use the bathroom facilities prior to coming to service.

- Ushers will be directing you. Please park in lower lot. If you need to park in the upper lot due to mobility issues, please just let the usher know.
- Masks are required and we ask you to maintain physical distance.
- Carry your lawn chair to the upper lot using either driveway (entrance or exit) thus both sides are open.
- Bulletins and offering boxes will be at the entrance/exit to the upper lot.
- Ushers will seat you according to “pod” size. We will be sitting in the parking spaces as well as on the hillside in front of the church. If you have a preference, please let the usher know.
- Service will end with communion. Those with cars will be served first so that vehicles exit the lot before bringing “pods” to communion and dismissal.
- After receiving communion, a “pod” will be dismissed from the service and will need to return to their car in the lower lot.
- Remember that this is something new for all of us. Please be kind to one another and to all those who are volunteering to make this happen. This is an exciting next step and it will be great to hear some live music again with worship! We will learn as we go and potentially change things as well.

It will be great to see people again in person!

We need 9 volunteers for each service to make this happen. Please consider volunteering to help.

Remember, Grace Abounds!