

Order of Worship for Sunday, April 18, 2021 His MIGHTY Strength series: Aligned

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* Not included in recorded service due to copyright restrictions on the platforms

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with your doubts and fears.

Many: We aren't so sure we have nothing to fear.

One: Call on God, who will answer you.

Many: God is hard to hear these days.

One: Come to the One who will give your souls peace. It is so hard to believe. Come, claim your identity as beloved children of God.

Many: We come, uncertain, but longing to hear God speak to us this morning.

OPENING PRAYER

Come to us, God, for we are waiting - waiting and hoping that your word of peace will soothe our fearful and doubting souls. Open our hearts to the message you would share with us today through song, prayer and meditation, that our souls might reach out, touch you, and believe. Help us claim our identity as your beloved children. Help us to live into this identity, today and always, that we might radiate your love to others. Come, beloved One, we are here to listen and be transformed. AMEN.

HYMN Wonderful Words of Life UMH 600*

BLESSING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS – DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Jesus Appears to the Disciples

JOYS AND CONCERNS - (The Lord's Prayer "trespass")

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Acts 3:12-19

MESSAGE Aligned

HYMN Here I Am, Lord UMH 593*

COMMISSION & BLESSING

PASTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Theresa M. Heiser; theiser@susumc.org; 814-883-9510; PO Box 211, Centre Hall 16828

BIBLE STUDY: Touch and See

Read: Luke 24:36b-48

- What is the state of the disciples Jesus encounters in this passage? [Startled and terrified, v. 37; disbelieving and wondering (confused?), v. 41.] Why do you think each of the Gospel writers emphasized this?
- How does this make the disciples more relatable?
- If you were one of the disciples, how would you have heard Jesus' command to "Touch me and see" or "Grab hold and see"? Would this have brought you assurance, strengthened your belief, or guilt by highlighting your previous doubts?
- How is Luke helping the readers understand the reality of Jesus' incarnational presence? [We have a tangible faith that is more than just wishful thinking.]
- How does our faith, that is grounded in reality, inspire us toward acts of mercy and compassion to our neighbors and around the world?

CLOSING PRAYER

God of glory and God among us, help us to "grab hold and see" the vision of abundant life you offer us now, the belief that this world is not the end, that our relationship with the Triune God will extend past the grave into all eternity, the hope you give us to encounter your abiding presence of peace. We look forward to experiencing the abundance, justice, and righteousness of your coming realm. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 15 – Ladies Coffee & Conversation 9:30am at St. James UMC, Coburn. All are welcome.

April 18 – LAST Youth Pizza Study for the school year; for teens in grades 7-12 will meet from 5-6:30pm at St. James UMC. Pastor Theresa and a safe sanctuaries cleared volunteer host a pizza supper followed by a teen centered study that includes games and prizes! RSVP required by Noon of the study day by phone or text to Pastor Theresa 814-883-9510

May 4 – Trinity Woodward Ladies Aide Meeting, 6:30pm

May 4 – Sprucetown Ad Council/Trustees Meeting 7pm

May 5 – St. James Trustees Meeting 6:30pm, Ad Council 7pm

May 6 – National Day of Prayer – St. James UMC open for prayer 8am-7:30pm and prayer resources will be made available at all churches for anyone wishing to pray at work or at home.