**Worship Service May 21, 2023**

**Welcome!** It’s so good to have you all join with us in worship! **Announcements:** -We are collecting information on all of our church family so we have the most up to date information. There are forms out on the table to the right. If we don’t receive one from you, you will receive a form to fill out online, and if we don’t have your email address, we will hand you a form to fill out immediately. 😊 -We have many old church picture directories, if anyone ones any of these please let us know. -Newsletters will be out by next week, so be looking for those. If you have anything that needs to go in the June newsletter, please get it into the office by tomorrow. -Next week is Pentecost Sunday. In honor of the Holy Spirit that appeared like fire on the first Day of Pentecost try to wear something in the colors of red, orange, or yellow. -You have 2 weeks to bring in Personal Dignity Kits or gifts of money for the MidWest Mission Distribution Center. -Voting has begun for Larissa in the 2nd round of You, God’s Music competition. Help her move on to the next round on June 4th, Remember that you can vote through giving a Love gift which will be entered in as votes, Just mark it and put it in the offering. -Also, remember to keep giving to the Pennies from Heaven offering for Steve Semler’s mission work. -We need people to help with ushering during the offering, a sign-up sheet is available on the table. Please sign-up when you can to share in that service. –Don’t forget to join in the fellowship time in the Social Hall.

**211North: “Giving It All to You”** (By Michael & Lisa Gungor) Verse 1 - You are the Author of life. Just one word, and I am free. You are the Savior, and I need Your grace to rescue me. I surrender. Chorus 1 - We're giving it all to You. We're giving it all to You. Our hearts cry out, we need You now. We're giving it all to You. Verse 2 - You are the fountain of life. Just one drop, and I am filled. You are my joy and desire. I resign to Your will. I surrender. Bridge - For just one drop and we are filled. Just one drop and we are filled. Just one word and we are free. Chorus 2 - We're giving it all to You. We're giving it all to You. Our hearts cry out, we need You now. We're giving it all. We're giving it all to You. Ending - I surrender, I surrender, I surrender all. CCLI Song # 4943309 © 2007 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) *For use solely with the SongSelect®*[*Terms of Use*](about:blank)*. All rights reserved.*[*www.ccli.com*](about:blank)CCLI License # 1694213

**Lighting of the Christ Candle:** Let’s be in an attitude of prayer, as we light our Christ candle.“Light of Christ, shine on our path. Chase away all darkness. Illumine us. And Lead us to the heart of God.” Amen.

**211North: “Faithful God”** (By Abbie Parker, Colby Wedgeworth, & Matt Hein) **Verse 1 -** I am surroundedOn every side.Can't see the light of day,But I am persuadedBeyond all hope,You won't let go of me. **Pre-Chorus 1 -** I stake my claim On every word. You say You will not be late. **Chorus -** I will sing through fire and thunder, 'Cause You are on my side. I trust You with my life. I know my story, it isn't over.Even against all odds, You are a faithful God. **Tag 1 -** You're faithful God! **Verse 2 -** The darkest of weather, Though I can't see, I still believe You're good. So I'm moving forward Through crashing waves, I know I'm safe with You. **Pre-Chorus 2 -** You hold my life. You hear my cry, With every breath inside. **Chorus, Tag 2 -** That's who You are, You are a faithful God! **Bridge -** I am convinced that Your promises will hold together, And I will dwell in the hope of Your love forever. I am convinced that Your promises will hold together, And I will dwell in Your love. **Chorus, Ending -** That's who You are, You are a faithful God. You are a faithful God! CCLI Song # 7145818 © 2020 Capitol CMG Genesis (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Wedgeworth Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) All Essential Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) Be Essential Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) I Am "They" Publishing (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) IAMTHEYSONGS (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) *For use solely with the SongSelect®*[*Terms of Use*](https://songselect.ccli.com/about/termsofuse)*. All rights reserved.*[*www.ccli.com*](http://www.ccli.com/)CCLI License # 1694213

**Children’s Message:** Can you think of problems that you have that you need help with?... Do those problems get so big sometimes that they seem like we can never get past them?... They become like a wall, and they seem impossible to get over or through. Who can help us when we have problems?... We need God’s help. He really cares about us, and all we have to do is ask Him to help us. How can we do that?... That’s right, we just have to pray to Him and ask for His help. When we do that we are giving our problems to God to take care of. I want you to think of one problem you’re facing. While you think of that problem, we’re going to do what God asks us to do and give our problems to God. So, think silently about a problem in your life. With God’s help, if those walls seems too big, we can just pray to God and ask Him to help us. He can knock those walls down! God does that with our problems. In the sermon I’ll be talking about a word “cast.” Do you know what that means?... Have you ever fished? (No) Well many times fishermen cast the fishing line out into the water. So if we are casting our problems to Jesus, we are throwing them to Him. Can you do that?... (Yeh) Ok let’s practice throwing our problems to Jesus!......God will take care of us, and get us through our problems! If our problems seem too large, God can make them seem smaller and can even take them away, And He walks with through all of them. Let’s pray and give our problems to God. **Let’s Pray…** God of love and trust: Thank you for caring about us and for asking us to give our problems to you. We give these problems that we are thinking about to you. We trust you to help us. Thank You for all You do for us, and for helping us through our problems. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

**Choir: “Everywhere I Go”**

**Offering: As the ushers come up to help receive the offerings, remember to follow the Lord’s leading in your giving… Let’s pray dedicating these gifts to the Lord’s work…** God of wisdom and guidance, steer us, we pray, through our anxious times. The gifts we bring this day are a small part of all we have received. We push back our inclination to be more generous because of our anxiety about the economy. We hold back on sharing our faith and advocating for compassion and justice out of anxiety about the division in our world and in our neighborhood. We hold back on inviting neighbors to church out of anxiety about how they might view the church right now. Remind us that it is Jesus we offer to the world, not us. Help us to cast our cares on Jesus, for the one the tomb could not hold can carry our worries and fears with ease. In the name of Jesus, who broke the hold of death once and for all. Amen. **Let’s sing the Doxology as we praise the Lord for our many blessings;** “Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen”

**Joys & Concerns: Joys shared:** -Brett Richards shared that yesterday was his and Heather’s anniversary. –Heather shared that we had wonderful fellowship this week at the Food Pantry/Community Dinner and at the Bonfire last night. It’s always great to get together! –Martha Baillis shared joys that her grandson Jacob Wall graduated last weekend, her granddaughter Hannah leaves tomorrow for her mission experience in Spain, and that she herself had safe travel home. -Brenda Cook is recovering well. Her daughter Melissa is still struggling with her meniscus tear, and will need to have it repaired. Her granddaughter Claire is still improving slowly through therapy. –Miranda Griffin shared that her son Jayse is attending his first birthday party for a friend who he made all by himself. –Larissa is currently 13 of 50 in the 2nd round of the music competition. –Sandy Batson shared that it is a joy that she is starting a job tomorrow working in the office at Wooster Toyota on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursday. She is nervous, so needs prayers, too. –Josie Denham shared that it’s a joy that her heart is now functioning at 25% compared to 20% earlier in the year. And she shared that it is such a blessing that Landon prays for her every night. They need continued prayers. **Concerns shared:** -Prayers for Hannah traveling. –Continued prayers for Brenda, Melissa, and Claire for healing. –Nancy Britton asked for prayers for Harry. He sees the heart doctor tomorrow, and has a test at the hospital on the 30th. He is having chest pains. Prayers for both of them. –Bruce asked for prayers for his friend Dick Davis who is in ICU and is not doing well. –Heather asked for prayers for Larissa’s friends Donald, who has cancer, and his wife Lizzie. –Prayers for those affected by the violent acts in this area and around the country. Prayers for the Jensen family of the young man killed along I-76 this week. -Safety for those traveling, many of our church family are away currently. –Prayers for our churches, our pastors, and the transitions ahead, as well as Christ’s Church in its entirety. –Prayers for our country & our world for guidance in all of the situations that they are facing at this time. -Many Unspoken Requests **Let’s take all of this to the Lord in prayer…** Dear Heavenly Father, We come to You with grateful hearts and heavy hearts. We are so thankful for the many wonderful blessings that You give us: for Brett’s & Heather’s anniversary; for their family; for the wonderful fellowship that we have had through the Food Pantry, Community Dinner, and Bonfire this week \*The times that we are able to spend together are just a blessing in themselves.). Lord, for Sandy & her new job, and we ask You to continue to keep her under Your wing, as she begins this new job and the nerves that she is dealing with , continue to help her to feel confident in all that she knows and all that she is able to do, keeping her safe in her travels back and forth. Lord, for Jayse we are so thankful that this little guy is so friendly and welcoming and has been able to make a new friend all by himself, and he’s able to attend this birthday party for the very first time. Lord, for Josie and Landon that Josie’s heart is improving a little at this point, but so much so that it is a blessing and an answer to their prayers. And we ask for continued healing for her, as You bring the speed of her heart up so that she has more strength day by day. We also thank You for Landon’s wonderful heart, and the love that he has for his mommy and the fact that he comes to You with his concern and asking You for the healing that is needed for Josie’s heart. Lord, we are also thankful for our church family who are able to come together each week, and ask for safe travels for Hannah tomorrow as she goes to Ireland and then Spain on this mission work for You. Also, give Jacob the guidance that he needs for the future as he has graduated and moves on. Also protect the others from our church family who are traveling this week. Lord, we also ask for Bruce’s friend Sick as he is struggling in the ICU that You touch his bofy giving him the healing that is according to You will. For Donald and Lizzie, we ask that You take that cancer out of his body. We know that he has dealt with it before, and we know that You are the Great Physician, and You can take it away as easily as it has come upon his body. You know their situation and that they haven’t been married very long. We ask for a miracle healing that we will be able to be witness to and will bring glory to You. Lord, for Harry we ask for healing for him as well, as he goes to the doctors help them to find all the answers that he needs as he is dealing with chest pains. Lord, for our churches and pastors and transitions that are coming. There are so many moves within our conference and so many pastors retiring as well. We ask that You help each one of us know what You want for each of our lives as we move forward. Be with each of the churches also as they go through the transitions ahead so that we continue to move forward in Your mission of bringing more disciples to You. For this country we ask for You power and decisions to be on each and every one to know what is best for the people of this country and to make those decisions that are necessary. For this world we ask the same and for peace to come over all, making decisions to come back to You and worship You in all that we do. We also have so many unspoken requests brought to You for You to take care of each need that is represented. We pray all of this in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us all to pray, saying... 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, Amen

**Hymn of Preparation: UMH #369 - “Blessed Assurance”** (By Fanny Jane Crosby & Phoebe Palmer Knapp) Verse 1 -Blessed assurance Jesus is mine O what a foretaste of glory divineHeir of salvation purchase of GodBorn of His Spirit washed in His blood**.** Chorus -This is my story this is my songPraising my Savior all the day longThis is my story this is my songPraising my Savior all the day long**.** Verse 2 -Perfect submission perfect delightVisions of rapture now burst on my sightAngels descending bring from aboveEchoes of mercy whispers of love**.** Chorus,Verse 3 -Perfect submission all is at restI in my Savior am happy and blestWatching and waiting looking aboveFilled with His goodness lost in His love**.** Chorus.CCLI Song # 22324 © Words & Music: Public Domain *For use solely with the SongSelect®*[*Terms of Use*](https://songselect.ccli.com/about/termsofuse)*. All rights reserved.*[*www.ccli.com*](http://www.ccli.com/)CCLI License # 1694213

**Scripture: Psalm 68:32-35 & Acts 1:6-14 Psalm 68:32-35** **32**Sing to God, all kingdoms of the earth! Sing praises to my Lord. *Selah* **33**Sing to the one who rides through heaven, the most ancient heaven. Look! God sends forth his voice, his mighty voice. **34**Recognize how strong God is! His majesty extends over Israel; his strength is in the clouds. **35**You are awesome, God, in your sanctuaries—the God of Israel who gives strength and power to his people! Bless God! **Acts 1:6-14** **6**As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, “Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?” **7**Jesus replied, “It isn’t for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. **8**Rather, 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 end of the earth.” **9**After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. **10**While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. **11**They said, “Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven.” **12**Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem—a sabbath day’s journey away. **13**When they entered the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter, John, James, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James, Alphaeus’ son; Simon the zealot; and Judas, James’ son— **14**all were united in their devotion to prayer, along with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. **The Word of God for the people of God. Praise be to God!**

**Message:** Our message today is to cast all our cares on Jesus. Praise be to God for that message. We find this in various places in scripture. The God of Israel gives power and strength to His people. Praise be to God! In Psalm 68 Dayid tells us to praise God, and reminds us how strong God truly is. In the beginning of that chapter David says, “Let God rise up; let his enemies scatter; let those who hate him run scared before him! 2Like smoke is driven away, drive them away! Like wax melting before fire, let the wicked perish before God! 3But let the righteous be glad and celebrate before God. Let them rejoice with gladness! 4Sing to God! Sing praises to his name! Exalt the one who rides the clouds! The Lord is his name. Celebrate before him! 5Father of orphans and defender of widows is God in his holy habitation. 6God settles the lonely in their homes; he sets prisoners free with happiness, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land. 7When you went forth before your people, God, when you marched through the wasteland, *Selah* 8 the earth shook! Yes, heaven poured down before God, the one from Sinai—before God, the God of Israel! 9You showered down abundant rain, God; when your inheritance grew weary, you restored it yourself, 10and your creatures settled in it. In your goodness, God, you provided for the poor.” Then in 1 Peter 5:6-11 we are told by Peter, “6Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7Cast all your anxiety (or cares) on him because he cares for you. 8Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 10And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. As we were listening to the beginning of the Psalm passage, did you catch that he talked about the One who road in the clouds?... This is the Old Testament talking about the One riding in the clouds! It was referring to this time when Jesus would ride in the clouds ascending into heaven. And if you don’t know much about the church calendar and the special days that are remembered, you wouldn’t notice that I don’t always stick to talking about these special days, but today is the Sunday that the Day of Ascension is remembered, to remember the time that Jesus ascended into heaven, but there is so much more that needs to be dealt with. As we heard from 1st Peter 5, we are to cast our cares on the Lord, because He gives the strength that we need, and He has the strength to do away with them if that’s what He wants to do or He has the ability to walk with us through them, to do what we need and to give us what we need to be able to get through those times. The Bible tells us that we are not going to go through life without struggles. Everyone has them in one way or another. Everyone has difficult times as well as easy times, and some people manage those times better than others. But we all need to realize that we get through the difficult times so much easier if we go through them with Christ. In another translation verses 6 & 7 from 1st Peter 5 say, “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you.” and we don’t think that we can go on any further, we can realize that we don’t have to handle these things on our own. That’s what humbling ourselves is all about. We think that we are the ones that have that power to deal with the hard things, but we need to humble ourselves and realize that we need God! We need Christ on our side. We need to draw closer to Him so we’ve got that. As I shared with the children and an illustration that we can see in our minds is that when things are going badly we can cast our troubles, or throw them, to Jesus to take care of. In Acts 5 Peter told us that they all met together and were constantly united in prayer, talking of the disciples along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus. They didn’t do things on their own. They knew from Jesus’ teachings that they had to go to the Lord. They needed to take all of the things that they were going through; and at that time, this group of people were going through a lot; to take them to the Lord. They experienced Christ’s crucifixion, dealt with His burial, and dealt with the resurrection; many of them not truly understanding what was going on. Then they dealt with Him taking them to the mountain and He disappeared up in the clouds. Think about what you would have felt like if you would have been standing on the Mount of Olives with Jesus and all at once the clouds come down and surround Him and lift Him into the sky and you see Him no longer. But according to this account from Peter there were 2 men standing near them. Who do you think those men would have been?... In another account it said that the 2 men were standing by Jesus, and they were named as Moses and Elijah. But Moses and Elijah had disappeared before Jesus went up into the clouds. So who do you think these men would have been?... Any idea?... They were angels, appearing out of nowhere. They asked Peter, James, and John what they were looking at, looking into the sky. Then they said that Jesus is gone into the heavens, and out of the heavens He will return in the same way. That tells us that Jesus will return in the clouds. It may be that we will see Jesus coming in the clouds, or the clouds could come down and place Jesus on the earth without us seeing Him until after the clouds lift, and He’ll just be there. It might be that Jesus will come to all in spirit in His new body all over the earth. It might be the only way that all will know that He is here. There are a lot of things to think about. We don’t know! This is something that helps us to understand why we need to dig into His Word, to understand better what is there. I’ve thrown a lot of scripture at you today. Some of it was my intent, and some of it not. But we need to realize that there are portions of scripture that all fit together. And if we don’t study it and see where different parts go with other parts, we don’t get the full understanding. That’s why God calls us to the studying. And that’s why we have the studying available to you. As many know we have the Women’s Bible Study; we have the Men’s Bible Study, which they are planning to continue even after my husband and I leave by reading it together and digging into it themselves if they don’t understand it. The new pastor may be having another study along the way as well. You have many opportunities to learn. Make sure you do the studying of God’s Word to help you to understand what God wants you to know. There is so much more to dig into. In Acts we find that we need to pray. All the important people right then to Jesus were praying, and that’s how they knew that they were being taking care of and how they knew that even though Jesus left them He was right there with them in spirit giving them the strength and guidance that they needed. Here in Acts, the disciples were seeking God’s guidance in choosing the new twelfth disciple to replace Judas. Some of you may know and understand and some may not, but Judas had to betray Jesus. He didn’t realize that he was actually betraying Jesus, but thought he was helping. He thought that Jesus needed a little push to act on saving the Israelites, thinking that the saving was going to come through the overthrowing of the Romans. Judas was distraught because he had betrayed Jesus. Obviously Judas didn’t understand what Jesus had been teaching them. But Judas was there for the purpose of turning Jesus over to the Romans. Judas blamed himself however, not believing that God would ever accept him again, and in his despair had recently committed suicide by hanging himself. One of the 12 disciples was gone, and they hadn’t been happy with Judas either, but if he would have gone to God, God would have worked things out. Well, he didn’t, so what did the other 11 have to do?... The disciples needed to fill his spot in their group of disciples. The disciples prayed about their decision saying, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these 2 you have chosen.” There were 2 men who stood out to them, and they wanted to make the right choice. They needed to choose someone, and how did they go about making the right choice of Bartholomew, also known as Matthias? ... They prayed for God to direct them to the right person. He then went with them spreading the gospel to the people of that land. Judas was an example of what not to do when you are overwhelmed or distraught. When you are struggling and feeling heartsick, thinking that God can’t help; don’t step out and do something on your own; go to God and ask for God’s help, God’s guidance, and God’s love to get you through it. So, when you are making choices, steps to take in the future; whether it’s a struggle or not, any time you are making any decision, the first step is prayer, coming to the Lord in prayer! We can trust Him for the right answers, because He knows exactly what we are to do. Cast ALL your cares on Jesus. Keep on asking, knocking, and seeking the Lord. He will never fail you. We can trust Him in all things. When we are struggling with anything, anything, we cannot give up; or we should not give up. God will give us the strength to get through! He will walk with us, as in the poem “Footprints in the Sand” when it get to the point that He knows that we can’t handle it on our own any longer then He will carry us until we can handle it again. He will do all that we need because He cares for us so much! We find this answer in the Old and New Testaments, “Always cast our cares on Him!” Psalm 55:22 says, “Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken.” When we trust in Him and His guidance He gives us the peace to get through anything, regardless of how difficult. I think back to the time when I was going through the ordination process, and that was after I came here, I struggled and I just about gave up, because I had forgotten. I was so distraught through that time, I hadn’t forgotten to go to the Lord first. Once I sat down and was reminded by others around me to pray, to take it to God, His peace came over me. I knew then that it was going to be ok, and I started realizing some of the things that God had wanted me to learn and some of the things that I needed to grow in before that time could actually happen. It happens. It’s easier if we just take those steps to let God be in control. When we trust in Him, we are standing in His grace!

**Let’s Pray:** God who loves us and cares for us, grant us the peace of knowing that we are not alone in all our stresses, hardships, and responsibilities. You are with us! Grow our trust in Your care, that we might first turn not to ourselves but to You. Help us to focus on You so that in difficult times we would move toward joy instead of despair. Keep reminding us of all You have done, are doing, and will do for us. We are Your Easter people. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen. **Personal Reflection:** Reflect on all that the Lord is calling on you to hand over to Him.

**Our closing song is** **UMH #354 - “I Surrender All” Sing from your heart, knowing that we can surrender all of our cares to the Lord.**(By Judson Wheeler Van DeVenter & Winfield Scott Weeden) **Verse 1 -** All to Jesus I surrender All to Him I freely give I will ever love and trust Him In His presence daily live **Chorus -** I surrender all. I surrender all, All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all. **Verse 2 -** All to Jesus I surrender Humbly at His feet I bow Worldly pleasures all forsaken Take me Jesus take me now **Chorus,** **Verse 3 -** All to Jesus I surrender Make me Savior wholly Thine Let me feel the Holy Spirit Truly know that Thou art mine **Chorus, Verse 4 -** All to Jesus I surrender. Lord, I give myself to Thee. Fill me with Thy love and power. Let Thy blessing fall on me. Chorus, Verse 5 - All to Jesus I surrender Now I feel the sacred flame O the joy of full salvation Glory, glory to His name. **Chorus** CCLI Song # 23189 © Words & Music: Public Domain *For use solely with the SongSelect®*[*Terms of Use*](https://songselect.ccli.com/about/termsofuse)*. All rights reserved.*[*www.ccli.com*](http://www.ccli.com/)CCLI License # 1694213

### Benediction: Easter people, God has done great things for you! Go, now, carrying the story of God’s work in your lives that in all things, good and difficult, you can ask with confidence, knowing that God will, indeed, take all our cares and point us toward joy. Go in peace! Amen.