

May 21, 2023  
7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Service of Worship  
Celebration of the Ascension

First Presbyterian Church  
Cedar Falls

## Prelude

## Welcome

## Call to Worship\*

One: Sing to God a new song.

**ALL: God has done marvelous things!**

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

**ALL: Let the world and its people sing together for joy!**

One: We lift our voices.

**ALL: Hallelujah!**

## Gathering Hymn 276

“Sing a New Song unto the Lord”

*all verses*

## Prayer for Illumination

## Scripture Reading

Luke 24:36-43

## Time for Wonder

## Hymn 157

“I Danced in the Morning”

*all verses*

## Scripture Reading

Luke 24:44-49

## Invitation to Confession

## Confession

**Embodied God, we have heard it time and time again,  
the story of your death and resurrection, the story of your reappearance among us.**

**We know you are here, and yet we often do not recognize you.**

**Forgive us for failing to perceive you.**

**Help us to see you in the companions we meet along the way,  
in those whose needs we ignore, in faces both familiar and strange.**

**Pour out your Spirit upon us, that we may share your grace with courage and compassion.**

## Assurance of Grace

Because Christ lives, we also live. **It is Christ who forgives us. It is God who re-creates us.**

**It is Spirit who dwells with us. Alleluia! Praise be to God!**

## Our Response to Grace #288

“Spirit of the Living God”

once through

## Scripture Reading

Acts 1:4-11

## Reflection

*Looking Back, Looking Forward, Looking Up*

## Hymn 298

“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

verses 1, 2, 5

## Scripture Reading

Acts 1:12-14

## Celebration of Presbyterian Women & Litany of Praise

One: For the congregation in times past which courageously ordained women as elders.

**All: We celebrate and give thanks to God!**

One: For all the women who, in times past and present, have gathered here to offer their praise to you.

**All: We celebrate and give thanks to God!**

One: For all the women who, in times past and present, have studied your sacred story and taught others your ways.

**All: We celebrate and give thanks to God!**

One: For all the women who, in times past and present, have advocated for the vulnerable.

**All: We celebrate and give thanks to God!**

One: For all the women who, in times past and present, have organized funeral receptions and offered comfort and support to those were grieving.

**All: We celebrate and give thanks to God!**

One: For all the women who, in times past and present, prepared and served meals for Wednesday nights, campus groups, camps, meetings, and all-church fellowship.

**All: We celebrate and give thanks to God!**

One: For all the women who will continue to serve you and your church in new ways.

**All: We celebrate and give thanks to God!**

One: God, we celebrate you and the blessing of your call on all people! We give thanks for the rich diversity of gifts which build your kin-dom. **All: Alleluia! Thanks be to God.**

### Hymn

“God of the Women”

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

SLANE 10.10.9.10 (tune: "Be Thou My Vision")

1. God of the women who walked Jesus' Way,  
Giving their resources, learning to pray,  
Mary, Joanna, Susanna, and more —  
May we give freely as they did before.

3. God of the women who ran from the tomb,  
Prayed with the others in that upper room,  
Then felt your Spirit on Pentecost Day —  
May we so gladly proclaim you today.

2. God of the women long put to the test,  
Left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,  
Quietly asking: "Who smiled at my birth?" —  
In Jesus' dying you show us our worth.

4. God we your people are ministers all,  
May we be joyful in answering your call.  
Give us the strength of your Spirit so near  
That we may share in your ministry here.

**Offering Invitation & Dedication**     *Gifts may be given online at [firstprescf.org](http://firstprescf.org)*

### Doxology (tune #609)

For death-defying hope, we praise;—for love that conquers all, we raise—alleluias! Alleluia!

For justice here on earth we sing—and righteousness as if a stream.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

*Specific prayer concerns are listed in the weekly newsletter*

### Our Life Together

### Sending Hymn 765

“May the God of Hope”

### Blessing and Charge

### Postlude

*Go in peace and boldness to love and serve the Risen Christ!*