

ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD
Fourth Sunday of Eastertide
8 May 2022

PRELUDE

"Much madness is divinest sense
To a discerning eye.
Much sense, the starkest madness."

---Emily Dickenson

SHARING IN OUR COMMON LIFE

Introductions & Announcements

CHIMES AND CANDLELIGHTING

CALL TO GATHER I John 1:1-4

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with God and was revealed to us - we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have communion with us; and truly our communion is with God and with Jesus Christ.

*HYMN #268 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

OUR BODILY CONFESSION

Please look at your hands and repeat after the lector.

God, here are our hands...

**Put in deep pockets to keep them safe,
Held behind our backs to keep them hidden from you,
Placed over our eyes to blind ourselves to the needs of others.
Buried within sand where they are immobilized and useless,
Patting ourselves on the back to take credit for all we do,
Grabbing for the material things of life,
Frequently pushing you away. Amen**

OUR BODILY ASSURANCE

Please look at the hands of someone near you and repeat after the lector

**God, here are your hands: Tireless and always there for us.
Beckoning us to come closer. Holding us secure.**

**Lifting us up when we are down. Opening new doors for us.
Revealing special gifts you have given us. Showing the way to eternal life.**

**Touching us with overwhelming love.
We are never the same again.**

OUR BODILY COMMITMENT

Our God, we place our hands in yours.

Men: Take them to use as you will.

Women: No other hands can touch in quite the way as ours.

Our God, hand in hand with you, we are reaching out in love to others, inviting all to experience the abundant life, receiving much more than we give.

Lector: Our God, alone our hands are weak, but together with yours they are strong. **Amen.**

MUSIC FOR WORSHIP "Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain"
Dave Smith soloist

MESSAGE FROM THE HEART Becky Cook
Candles For Mothers

GOSPEL LESSON Acts of the Apostles 8:5-20

SERMON "Better Than Magic" Ben Dake

*HYMN #299 "You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim"

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!"

***DOXOLOGY**

**Join hearts and voices as we lift
Our gratitude for every gift,
And multiply each gift with praise
To God who gives us all our days. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

The martyrs of the faith gave the greatest gift for your service - their very lives. Our gifts seem small in comparison, yet we offer them to you with deepest gratitude for the life you have given us and for your abiding presence with us. May they be used in service to you and to your troubled world. Amen.

*HYMN #187 "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

***BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE** "Rejoice"