**Call To Worship**

Jesus is not gone. He has ascended. He reigns in love, not from a distance, but near and present through the Spirit.

**We come with open hearts to worship the risen and ascended Christ!**

He lifts us beyond fear, beyond doubt, calling us to live with purpose and boldness.

**We fix our eyes on the things above and open our lives to the Spirit's leading**.

**All: Come, let us worship Christ, who lives, reigns, and sends us into the world!**

**Opening Prayer**

Risen and reigning Christ, you have ascended, not to leave us,
but to fill all things with your presence and power. As we gather to worship, lift our thoughts higher. Remind us that we are part of something bigger, your kingdom of hope, justice, and peace. Send your Spirit to stir us, renew our courage, and move us to live as your people in the world. May this time of worship remind us that you are not only above us, but also with us and within us. Amen.

Please announce hymn #154 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” verses 1-4

**Scripture Reading:**Acts 1:6-14**(CEB)**

As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, “Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?”Jesus replied, “It isn’t for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. 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.”After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. 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.” Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem—a sabbath day’s journey away. 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—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.

**Thanks be to God.**