

Scripture Theme for 2023: "I have come so that they may have life and live it to the fullest"

John 10:10



Matt 13:8

**First United Methodist Church**

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Pastor Melissa Smith Nelson



# 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter & Graduation Sunday

May 21, 2023~ 10:30 a.m.

## ***Welcome All!***

*We are pleased that you are worshipping with us either on Face book  
Live or in the Sanctuary.*

*\*Congregation, please stand if able*

**Pondering:** The kingdom of God grows "we know not  
how," but we should spread the gospel seed with  
confidence.

**\*BEGINNING WITH PRAISE**

**No.**

*"Holy Ground"*

**WHY ARE WE HERE?**

**Rudy Hyde**

Leader: Gracious God we have come so you can Help us  
cultivate that which would nourish our souls.

**People: For every soul belongs to you, O Lord, as well as  
to your Son.**

Leader: You have created in us sacred soul space. We are  
here desiring for what only you can give.

**People: We have come today so you may help each of us  
yield the best for you.**

Leader: We come today to be refreshed with your Hope.

**HYMN OF PREPARATION**

**No.**

*"My Hope is Built"*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Rudy Hyde**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Pastor Melissa**

**O Lord, you are our shepherd, and yet we want things that are  
the best for us.**

**We lie down when we could act. We stir the pot when we could offer peace, we wander tempting paths instead of following you. We see courage and comfort in earthly things rather than in you. We hate our enemies and refuse to break bread with them, we see scarcity even when you offer us abundance. We pray for forgiveness, for your goodness and mercy, so that we might dwell in You, in your grace, forever. Amen.**

*A moment of silence with God for your personal prayer of confession.*

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.

## **A WORD FROM OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS**

### **PHOENIX HYDE BRANDON REIDEL**



## **YOUR GIVING MAKES A DIFFERENCE**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER: Lord Jesus Christ, thank you that you have plans for these two young men that are for their good and your glory. You said, “Give, and it will be given to you; for in the same measure as you give, it will be given to you again.” We give to you today as a response to your goodness to us. We ask that you receive our offerings and continue to supply all our needs. May your peace be in our hearts, your grace be in our words, your love be in our hands and your joy be in our souls. In your mighty name, Amen.**

**OFFERTORY  
\*DOXOLOGY**

**Hank Tharpe**

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH OF MAY**

**Psalm 84:11**

**For the Lord God is Our SUN & Our SHIELD.**

**He Give us GRACE & GLORY**

**Psalm 84:11**

**RESPONSIVE READING**

**No 754**

Psalm 23

**\*THE GOSPEL READING**

Joseph Rosado

**Mark 4:26-34**

*Liturgist: This is the Word of God for the People of God*

*People: Thanks be to God*

**\*THE GOSPEL READING**

Bill Elliott

**Matthew 13:1-9**

*Liturgist: This is the Word of God for the People of God*

*People: Thanks be to God*

**MESSAGE**

Pastor Melissa

**“Hope In a Seed”**

**HYMN OF PREPARATION**

No. 707

*“Hymn of Promise”*

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: We go forth believing in the coming of the kingdom of God. It is a kingdom that will have no end. It is a kingdom in which God's purposes will be fully realized.

**People: It is a kingdom that has already begun. It is marked by small acts of kindness, love and generosity.**

Pastor: It is hidden, quiet and works in ways we often do not recognize.

**People: This kingdom will reunite what has been separated and restore what has been broken.**

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit

**People: Submit to God and God will bring the best out of you.**

**POSTLUDE**

Hank Tharpe

