

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold  
Bulletin**

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

Announcements: Verl McKinney

Prelude

Welcome: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

\*Call to Worship: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Leader: We seek the word of God, but may not hear the messenger.

**People: Open our eyes and ears to accept the message without judging.**

Leader: Help us to see the truth.

**People: With a loving ear, let us hear the word of God at work in the world.**

**All: With trust, we can all be instruments of God.**

\*Opening Prayer: (In Unison)

**Eternal God, at times we let presumptions block us from seeing your gifts in other people. Change us by the power of your Holy Spirit. Renew our hearts; open our spiritual eyes to see your greater purpose and potential in all persons. Walk beside us as we obey your call to encourage one another, create space, and help each other use our God-given gifts for your work in the world. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn: “Thine Be the Glory” UMH #308

\*Praise Song: “He Is Exalted” TFWS #2070

Introduction to Prayer

*[For those joining us online, please submit your prayer requests in the comments on the virtual attendance sheet, or email the church office. Your prayer requests will be lifted up in next Sunday’s service.]*

Prayer Hymn: “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” TFWS #2171

Pastoral Prayer: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

The Lord’s Prayer: UMH #895

Scripture Reading: Acts 9:1-22 Cindy Curtis-Budka

Sermon: “Rising of Paul” Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Offering Time: **Giving Page:** [www.freeholdmethodist.org/give](http://www.freeholdmethodist.org/give)

Offertory

\*Doxology: “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH #95

\*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

**There is great good accomplished through our gifts of tithes and offerings. So today, as we give, let's thank God our provider, who multiplies our gifts to assist and serve others beyond what we can ask or even imagine.**

\*Passing of the Peace

\*Closing Hymn:

"I Saw the Light"

Hank Williams Sr.

\*Benediction:

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

\*Postlude

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**Scripture Passage for Sunday, May 21, 2023**

**Liturgist: Cindy Curtis-Budka**

**Acts 9:1-22 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)**

### **The Conversion of Saul**

**9** Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" <sup>5</sup> He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." <sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing;<sup>[a]</sup> so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup> The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, <sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision<sup>[b]</sup> a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." <sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; <sup>16</sup> I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." <sup>17</sup> So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul<sup>[c]</sup> and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

### **Saul Preaches in Damascus**

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, <sup>20</sup> and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." <sup>21</sup> All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" <sup>22</sup> Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus<sup>[d]</sup> was the Messiah.<sup>[e]</sup>

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Opening Hymn:**  
**Thine Be the Glory**  
**UMH #308**

(Verse 1)

Thine be the glory,  
Risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory  
Thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment  
Rolled the stone away,  
Kept the folded grave clothes  
Where Thy body lay.

**Chorus**

**Thine be the glory,**  
**Risen, conquering Son;**  
**Endless is the victory**  
**Thou o'er death hast won.**

(Verse 2)

Lo! Jesus meets thee,  
Risen from the tomb;  
Lovingly He greets thee,  
Scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the church with gladness  
Hymns of triumph sing,  
For our Lord now liveth;  
Death hath lost its sting.

**(Repeat Chorus)**

(Verse 3)

No more we doubt Thee,  
Glorious Prince of life!  
Life is naught without Thee;  
Aid us in our strife.  
Make us more than conquerors,  
Through Thy deathless love;  
Bring us safe through Jordan  
To Thy home above.

**(Repeat Chorus)**

**Praise Hymn:**  
**He Is Exalted**  
**TFWS #2070**

(Verse)

He is exalted,  
The King is exalted on high;  
I will praise Him.  
He is exalted, forever exalted  
And I will praise His name!

(Chorus)

He is the Lord,  
Forever His truth shall reign;  
Heaven and earth  
Rejoice in His holy name.  
He is exalted,  
The King is exalted on high.

**Prayer Hymn:**  
**Make Me a Channel of Your Peace**  
**TFWS #2171**

(Verse 1)

Make me a channel of Your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,  
Where there's doubt, true faith in You.

(Verse 2)

Make me a channel of Your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, only light,  
Where there's sadness, ever joy.

(Verse 3)

O, Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console,  
To be understood as to understand,  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

(Verse 4)

Make me a channel of Your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
In giving of ourselves that we receive,  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

**Doxology:**

**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**  
**UMH #95**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

**Closing Hymn:**  
**I Saw the Light**  
**Hank Williams Sr.**

(Verse 1)

I wandered so aimless, life filled with sin,  
I wouldn't let my dear Savior in.  
Then, Jesus came like a stranger in the night  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

(Chorus)

**I saw the light, I saw the light,**  
**No more in darkness, no more in night.**  
**(And) now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight,**  
**Praise the Lord, I saw the light.**

(Verse 2)

Just like a blind man I wandered along,  
Worries and fears I claimed for my own.  
Then like the blind man that God gave back his  
sight,  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

(Chorus)

**I saw the light, I saw the light,**  
**No more in darkness, no more in night.**  
**(And) now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight,**  
**Praise the Lord, I saw the light.**

(Verse 3)

I was a fool to wander and stray,  
Straight is the gate, and narrow the way.  
Now I have traded the wrong for the right.  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

(Chorus)

**I saw the light, I saw the light,**  
**No more in darkness, no more in night.**  
**(And) now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight,**  
**Praise the Lord, I saw the light.**

**May 21, 2023**  
**Announcements:**

**Welcome to worship at the First United Methodist Church of Freehold, whether you are joining us virtually, or in person, we are glad you are with us.**

**Schedule some time with our pastor.** Pastor Yoseb would like to spend some one-on-one time with our church members for an informal chat, prayer, exchange of ideas, etc. If you are home and would like a visit from our pastor, please let us know. So, check your calendars, and find a day in May that works for you. Then contact the pastor, or contact the church office to schedule.

**Monmouth Civic Chorus “Message in a Bottle”** – Today at 4:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Freehold. Tickets: \$35 (Regular Admission), \$32 (Senior), \$30 (Group of 10+), \$15 (Student). Come out support Becky & Marshall Gorman and Ken Budka.

Our next **Soul Supper** is coming up on **Wednesday, May 24th at 6pm.** Yoseb and Yoonjung are treating us to a Korean Rice Bowl with Bulgogi (Marinated Beef) and Bibimbap (Stir-Fried Veggies), Soy-Garlic Chicken Wings, and Fried Dumplings. If you have any more room in your stomach, there will be Applesauce Cake for dessert. Please sign the RSVP sheet in Fellowship Hall if you want to share this special meal with the Jeon family.

Enjoy a great view of the **Memorial Day Parade** (May 29<sup>th</sup>) from the front lawn of our church. The building will be open for use of the restroom. The parade will begin with a flag draped caisson at 9:45 and followed by the rest of the parade at 10:00.

**E.H.A.P.** (The Emergency Housing and Advocacy Program) is in need of men’s underwear – all sizes and styles. Donations should be placed in the donation bin in Missions Hall.

Check out the **calendar** on our church website for all church/community event dates.