Seventh Sunday of Easter

# Gathering

## Call to Worship

We come to worship God in this space.  
**We come to this liminal space,  
an ‘in between’ space,  
a space between the broken Kingdom of humanity  
and the perfect Kingdom of God.**

We come to hear the teachings of Jesus.  
**We come to be inspired by His life,  
we come to be refreshed by His promises,  
we come to lifted up by His teachings.**

Let us worship God.

## Prayer of Approach

**God of church,  
You have gathered us together, to give us hope, to show us love, to inspire our faith:**

**Let our weary souls be refreshed,  
so that we can be faithful workers in Your vineyard, helping to make Your Kingdom real here on earth.**

**Amen.**

## Offertory Prayer

We offer You so much more than money, O God.  
**We offer You our love, our creativity, our dreams, our faith,  
all things which can be put to use in Your dream of a better world.**

We offer all these things, that they might be used in Your ministries.  
**Ministries of support for the homeless,  
ministries of compassion for the poor,  
ministries of healing for the sick,  
ministries of maintenance for infrastructure,  
ministries of teaching for children.**

Bless our offerings, that they might be used to glorify Your name.  
**Amen.**

# Listening

## Children’s Time

Reading: [1 Peter 4:12-16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+4%3A12-14%3B&version=MSG) (*The Message*)

Peter acknowledges that his readers are suffering for their faith. People still suffer for their faith. Who is suffering for their faith today? How?

### Questions

1. What does it mean to suffer for your faith?
2. How are people in other countries suffering for their faith?
3. How are people here suffering for their faith? Are they really suffering, or just inconvenienced?

## Sermon

Reading: [Acts 1:6-14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=acts+1%3A6-14&version=NRSV) (NRSV)

Going back to just after the Resurrection of the Lord, we hear of Jesus’ ascension into heaven and the apostles returning to Jerusalem. Before He leaves, they ask about when Israel will be restored. As usual, His response is not as straightforward as they, or we, would have liked. But it is still relevant to us today.

### Questions

1. Why did Luke record the apostles’ question?
2. What are some reasons Jesus answered the way He did?
3. For what are we waiting today?
4. What should we be doing?

# Serving

## Prayers for Community

*Refrain:*

We wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit.  
**We wait with anticipation to answer the Spirit’s call.**

## Closing Hymn

“Servant Song” Richard Gillard, 1977

## Benediction

We wait for the coming of the Lord.  
**We will listen for the Spirit, who calls us out into the world,  
to work while we wait,  
to reach out to others who are waiting,  
to give hope to those who wait.**

As we wait,  
**we will not lose faith,  
we will not despair,  
we will not give up.**

For Jesus is coming.

## Amen