

**Easter 2022 at Milwaukee Mennonite Church**  
**Collaboratively and Joyfully Arranged by**  
**Rev. Alison Casella Brookins**  
**contact Alison by phone or text with questions**

**This is a GUIDE!**

Please adapt what you need to to fit your own voice and preferences; leave out pieces you would rather not do; add things you want to include.

The songs I've included are more part of the liturgy than congregational singing; use the ones that work, leave out what doesn't, and add as many hymns as you have time for!

**A summary you can use as needed: in newsletter, bulletin, etc.**

In Lent, we were Seeking God's Ways. Now, a Big Thing has happened (Jesus' resurrection) and we are figuring out how to live as people of the resurrection. During Easter, we are Practicing God's ways, incorporating them into our lives and getting them into our bodies. We are not shiny, finished, perfect people: we are Practicing People.

**Theme statement:** We are the beautifully messy and messily beautiful practicing people of God.

**Practicing God's Ways** (from Leader Magazine)

Security → Generosity  
Fear → Compassion  
Earning → Receiving  
Exceptionalism → Inclusion  
Scarcity → Abundance  
Power over → Power with  
Certainty → Openness

*Please print all of these in the bulletin each week to remind us what we are practicing (see bulletin template below)*

[All scripture texts in full](#)

[All songs—lyrics and links to recordings](#)

[Bulletin Template](#)

**Alison will provide each week:**

“Welcome from God”  
Confession and Assurance

Context/orientation to scripture  
Benediction

**Worship Leader is responsible for:**

Choosing songs (in addition to the repeated songs, see link above)  
Finding scripture readers  
Welcome from worship leader  
Children's time (or ask preacher, per norm)  
Soliciting prayer requests and writing/finding prayer  
Announcements  
Any necessary words to connect/transition between elements

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**Super Concise Worship Outline** (see link above for a bulletin template)

**Practicing Welcome**

**Practicing Gratitude**

**Practicing Courage**

Naming Needs and Accepting Grace

**Practicing Listening**

Scripture  
    Hebrew Bible  
    New Testament  
Children's Time  
Reflection  
Prayer

**Practicing Blessing**

Announcements  
Benediction

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**Super Detailed Worship Outline**

Red text is spoken by the worship leader

*Practicing Welcome*

Welcome from God (prepared by Alison)

Hear, my people, what God has to say to you:

I am the God  
who chooses you,  
flaws and all,  
over and over.

[This stanza will change each week; These words are for Easter 7, May  
29]

You are welcome here.  
You are in the right place.  
In the bodies and spirits of each one here,  
I, your God, have given you enough for today.

This welcome  
Is a gift  
Freely given  
That already lives in you  
That will hold you tight  
And never let you fall.

Welcome from Worship Leader (in your own words)

Welcoming each other (use or adapt as needed)

And now let's welcome each other.

[Ask people in sanctuary move into a circle; circle should include the podium]

We're going to name everyone who is here for worship, Zoomers and Roomers,  
so we all know who we are worshiping with, since we can't see each other.

[name of tech person] can you tell us who we have on Zoom this evening?

Now we will pass the mic around, and everyone say their name

Sing "[Welcome to the Arms of God](#)" (Song Leader)

Starting note: C

Lyrics:

*Welcome to the arms of God  
Welcome to the hands of Christ  
Sing welcome to the Spirit she is coming even now  
Welcome, welcome home*

Passing the peace

Brief Outline:

1. “Gather up” a bunch of peace into a ball and throw it to someone else, saying “[Name], peace be with you!” Do this repeatedly, all in their own time, until it dies down.
2. Zoomers do the same, unmuting and throwing peace at the camera.
3. All sit back down

Detailed Script: (use or adapt as you need it)

First we make a Peace Ball. Zoomers, you can do this too. Reach out your right hand and gather up a big armful of peace. Then reach out your left hand and grab some more peace. And when you have enough, start packing it together. Get it real tight, small enough that it’s a size that’s easy to throw.

Now look out and find someone you want to throw this peace to. Call out “Peace be with you” and the person’s name, and throw the peace to them. Zoomers, you can unmute (we can’t hear you in the sanctuary) and throw your peace balls at the camera and say “peace be with you.” After you throw the first peace ball, make another and throw it to someone else. It will be a holy cacophony. Ready?

[All sit down]

### *Practicing Gratitude*

Open time for people to call out what they are grateful for, in the moment and from the week. Worship leader repeat words into mic after people. Ask Zoomers to type in chat, ask tech person to read

Prayer of gratitude (Worship Leader can prepare a spoken prayer, or use the song below)

Sing “[Thank You Spirit](#)” as a prayer of gratitude (Song Leader)

Starting note: A

Lyrics:

*Thank you for this [day], Spirit*

*Thank you for this day.*  
*Thank you for this day, Spirit*  
*Thank you for this day.*  
*This healing*  
*This healing*  
*This healing day*  
*This healing*  
*This healing*  
*This healing day.*

Sub in words: Day, Church, Time, etc  
At song leader's discretion, can sub in things people are grateful for.

*Practicing Courage*

Naming Needs and Accepting Grace (prepared by Alison)

Intro (use or adapt)

We are a practicing people. Part of our practice is being honest, naming and owning the places where we are not doing our best. We do this because by naming our sins and failures we come to see more clearly what is going on and ask for help where we need it. Until our eyes are opened, we cannot begin to do better.

Sing "Be Right Here" (Song Leader)

Starting note: C#

Lyrics: *Here; right here; be right here*

Confession

Join me in confession.

God, you know us.

You don't need us to tell you that we are not perfect;  
you already know the ways  
we have moved further away  
from the life you gave us to live.

In this moment

let us be present to these parts of our lives  
with honesty.

Let us lay down our shame  
and name before you  
the places where we need your help

on this difficult journey of practicing your ways.

[If you like, you can name specific things for congregation to confess here]

In silence, we bring before you what is weighing on our hearts

[Pause, 30 seconds silence]

Sing: "[Be Right Here](#)" (Song Leader)

Words of Assurance

Dear practicing people  
Hear these words of grace:

I am the God  
who chooses you,  
over and over.

[This stanza will change each week; These words are for Easter 7, May  
29]

I say: You are forgiven.

This grace is a gift  
Freely given  
That already lives in you,  
That will hold you tight,  
And will never let you fall.

Sing "[Hallelujah](#)" (Song Leader) (HWB 101; I'd recommend slower than this recording.  
This seemed familiar to folks the first Sunday, so you don't need to teach it, just start  
singing!)

*Practicing Listening*

Scripture

Context/orientation to the scriptures (provided by Alison)

For May 29, Easter 7:

Our New Testament scripture is from the book that records the Acts of the  
Apostles. Acts is addressed to a (probably fictional) reader named  
Theophilus, which means "lover of God." Scholars think that the author of  
Acts also wrote the gospel of Luke, and this is the "first book" that is

referenced in the first line. Today's text is the very beginning of Acts, and sets us up for Pentecost next week.

From the Hebrew scripture we'll hear a flashback to the Israelites leaving Egypt, plundering their former enslavers of their gold on the way out. Then we'll jump back to Mount Sinai, where Moses is up the mountain talking to God, and the people waiting below get antsy and anxious.

Remember, as you hear these stories, that the Jewish holiday Shavuot, celebrating the receiving of the law, is the same day as the Christian holiday Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit. Shavuot begins on sundown this coming Saturday, and we celebrate Pentecost this coming Sunday. The law and the spirit are both on their way.

Read scripture

Open mic: what do you notice? People call them out, repeat into mic

Script to intro open mic: (use or adapt as needed)

Usually at Milwaukee Mennonite, after the sermon, we have a time to share reflections on the service and prayer requests. Today we're going to separate those things out into three different times: first (now) a time to just name what you notice in the text, then after the sermon we will share reflections on the sermon, and after that we'll share prayer requests. So for now: what jumps out at you from the texts we just heard, what stirs your curiosity? You don't have to have any sort of point or conclusion. Simply: what do you notice?

If you're on Zoom write your noticings in the chat, and if you're in the sanctuary speak them aloud and I'll repeat them into the microphone.

Children's Time

Sermon

Open mic: reflections on sermon. Pass mic

Prayer requests

Open mic for prayer requests. Pass mic.

Prayer (prepared by worship leader)

*Practicing Blessing*

Announcements (activities with which we bless each other/our world)

[Move into circle]

Sing “[Get up and Go](#)” (Song Leader)

Starting note: A

Refrain is sung by all; verses are call and response

Lyrics:

Refrain

*You gotta get up and go*

*out of this place*

*Get up,*

*go out and live*

Verse 1

Your God came that you might have life

*Get up, go out and live*

So full of light that you just can't hide

*Get up, go out and live*

refrain

Verse 2

Won't be easy, you're gonna be scared

*Get up, go out and live*

Look around there's hope out there

*Get up, go out and live*

refrain

Verse 3

Take a step and raise your voice

*Get up, go out and live*

Don't hafta be perfect to sing 'n rejoice

*Get up, go out and live*

Benediction (prepared by Alison)

Words for May 29, Easter 7:

*My beautifully messy people,  
get up and go:  
knowing you will fail,  
knowing God still chooses you.*