

Worship Brainstorming

Revelation Song

Based on a series from the lectionary
Tues., March 29, 2022 at Booth's home
6:00 p.m. Potluck
7:00-9:30 p.m. Brainstorming for Worship
April 24-May 29, 2022 (6 Sundays)



The worship brainstorming for this series (after Easter) will be held at Booth's house. Members of all ages and backgrounds are invited to participate in the one-time commitment. The ideas generated at the brainstorming are used in worship.

We will have a potluck at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to share. Brainstorming is from 7:00-9:30 p.m. **Safety protocols will be the same as at church.**

Hard copies of this brainstorming packet are available at church. Additional material can be found on our website. Please read the Scripture readings and Pastor Mary's message synopses, and preview videos when they become available. RSVP to Karen Booth at kwbooth@comcast.net, 231-798-8431, or 231-557-1069 or by signing up at church.

Social Justice Issue for April 2022: Creation Care

Social Justice Issue for May 2022: Global Health (vaccines, medications, surgeries, prenatal care, cataracts, quality care for people all over the world)

Theme: The Spiritual Journey Continues...Picking up the pieces

- Connecting the pieces
- Transformation
- Serving others (passionately)

Metaphors:

- Puzzle/puzzle pieces – making a new picture. Related hands-on item: puzzle piece with scripture reference.
- Mosaic – creating something beautiful from broken pieces

Major spoken/unspoken needs:

- Dealing with fear, which often presents itself as anger and rage. One antidote to fear is serving.
- Peace, sense of belonging, safe communities, coming together, compassion
- Finding a new normal – less busy, better sense of priorities, greater gratitude, increased resilience

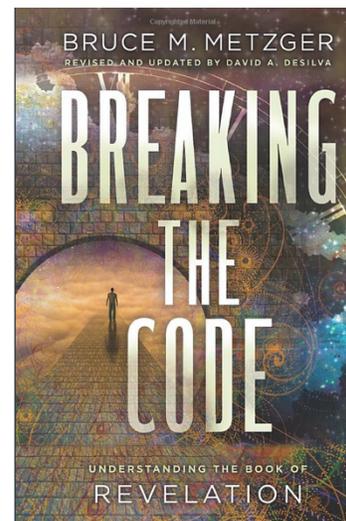
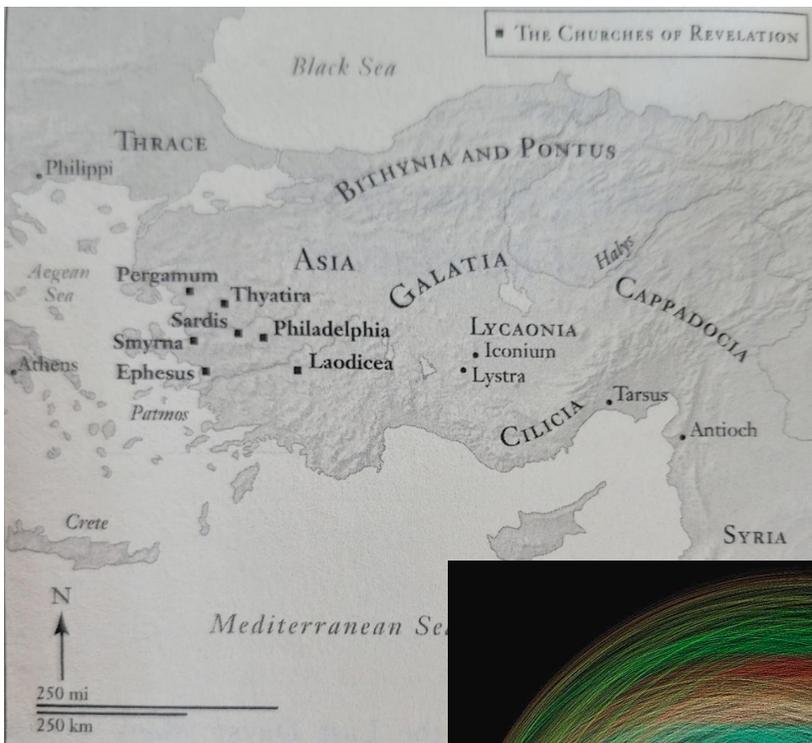
Synopsis: In recent years, people have looked to Revelation to explain politics, the pandemic, and other undesirable events - interpretations which are neither helpful nor accurate. The pastoral letter was written to specific people in a specific time and place using what we generally describe as bizarre imagery. It was never intended to frighten or confuse; it was

intended to challenge the church to stand loyal to Christ and to create unshakable hope!
(Unshakable Hope is a sermon series from Summit View Church in WA)

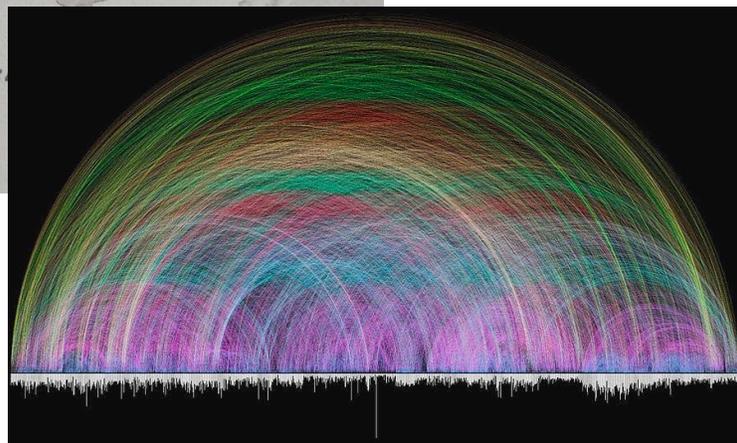
2021 theme connection: This (lectionary-based) series can offer us the same challenge and hope to us in our messed-up world as it did to its original audience.

Resources:

- Breaking the Code by Bruce Metzger (updated edition by David DeSilva)
- From Making Sense of the Bible by Adam Hamilton - map of the 7 churches mentioned in Revelation (modern day Turkey)



- Depiction of cross references from Genesis to Revelation: Each of the 63,779 cross references found in the Bible is depicted by a single arc – the color corresponds to the distance between the two chapters, creating a rainbow-like effect. The 176 verses of Ps 119 stand at the center point, as if it were a mirror creating a vast symmetry. What is especially striking is the number of lines that stretch all the way from Genesis to Revelation. This is a helpful reminder of the restoration of creation at the end of Revelation.
- From Making Sense of the Bible by Adam Hamilton - explanation of the apocalyptic literature and 4 views on how we read Revelation:
 1. *Futurist*: pointing to the last days before and just after Jesus returns



2. *Historicist*: foretelling of the future starting from the time of its writing (AD 95)
3. *Preterist*: pertains to people who lived in John’s time and explains events in late 1st and early 2nd century (mainline Protestant view, including United Methodists)
4. *Idealist*: perpetual struggle between good and evil, challenges of living for God amid culture, and hope that God offers when the persecuted who remain faithful

Most Biblical scholarship holds to Preterist and Idealist views.

Related resources:

- <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/9857/revelation-for-the-mainliners>
- <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/9628/why-read-revelation>
- <https://www.hpumc.org/sermons/series/the-door-to-heaven-stood-open>
- From the Bible Project - Revelation in 2 parts:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nvVVcYD-0w>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpnIrbq2bKo>

Music: *Revelation Song*

- “Revelation Song” lyric video (Playback Media). Length: 6:25. Cost: \$15.00. Web license: yes. <https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/worship-tracks/106114/revelation-song>
- “Revelation Song” lyric video (Jennie Lee Riddle – iWorship). Length: 4:45. Cost: \$14.98. Web license: Probably not. <https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/worship-tracks/60231/revelation-song->
- “Revelation Song” lyric video (Shout Praises Kids). Length: 5:18. Cost: \$10.00. Web license: Probably not. <https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/worship-tracks/18630/revelation-song>

Visuals: Ralphie’s secret decoder ring from “The Christmas Story,” HOPE

April 24, 2022: “Alpha and Omega”

Easter 2

Scripture: Revelation 1: 4-8 (NIV) “Greetings and Doxology”

⁴ John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who

was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits^[a] before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

⁷ “Look, he is coming with the clouds,”^[b]

and “every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him”;

and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”^[c]

So shall it be! Amen.

Footnotes:

- a. [Rev. 1:4](#) That is, the sevenfold Spirit
- b. [Rev. 1:7](#) Daniel 7:13
- c. [Rev. 1:7](#) Zech. 12:10

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Synopsis: The last book in our Bible, Revelation, is not one to be feared. Instead, it gives us a glimpse into a time of persecution in the early church, challenges us to consider our personal and communal faith, and understand a foundational truth: God is God, always and forever.

Felt need: To open ourselves to the hope of Revelation - that God has been, is, and always will be

Visuals: Greek letters alpha and omega, clouds

Hands-on item:

Activity:

Media possibilities:

- “Revelation – Intro Video.” Length: 1:00. Cost: \$30.00. Web license: Not sure. <https://www.visualmediachurch.com/intro-video-store/p/revelation>
- “VII – Book of Revelation.” Length: 2:23. Cost: \$0.00. Web license: Yes. John of Patmos was given a vision from Jesus about what is to come. He wrote a letter to seven churches in Asia to encourage some, but also to warn others. The book is filled with detail of his vision. What does it all mean? <https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/101489/vii--book-of-revelation>
- “Dear Church: An Intro to Revelation.” Length: 1:31. Cost: \$15.99. Web license: Probably not. This is designed to be an intro to a sermon series on the first few chapters of Revelation. <https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/60327/dear-church-an-intro-to-revelation>

Music: *Surely the Presence of the Lord* (UMH 328), *You Are My All in All*, *Days of Elijah*, *Awesome God* (FWS 2040), *Come, Thou Almighty King* (UMH 61), *It is Well with My Soul* (UMH 377); “Lion and the Lamb” by Bethel music (\$6.00 lyric video. No web license <https://www.sermonspice.com/worship-tracks/62445/lion-and-the-lamb>)

Children’s Time:

Social media:

Discussion points:

May 1, 2022: “Worthy is the Lamb”

Easter 3 - Children’s Sunday

One service at 10:00 a.m.

Scripture: Revelation 5: 11-14 (NIV)

¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹² In a loud voice they were saying:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!”

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power,
for ever and ever!”

¹⁴ The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Synopsis: Revelation is not a prediction, but an extended vision meant to offer hope to fellow believers. John’s vision reminds us who Jesus is - the Lamb of God - and what he does - takes away the sin of the world. Our response is to worship Jesus together.

Felt need: To be filled with hope as we worship Jesus

Visuals: Bulletin cover drawn by a kid or youth, lamb, angels

Hands-on item:

Activity: acolytes, Holy Communion - kids and youth serve, Mission Team commissioning, ice cream outside after worship

Media possibilities: Recording of *I Am Love*, slideshow, benediction

- “He Is Worthy of Our Worship.” Length: 0:46. Cost: \$12.00. Web license: Yes. Jesus is supreme over all things. <https://www.sermonspice.com/sermon-illustrations/105299/he-is-worthy-of-our-worship>

Music: *How Great Is Our God; Jesus Paid It All; Here I Am to Worship; Mighty to Save; Did You Feel the Mountains Tremble?; You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd; O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (UMH 57); *I Love to Tell the Story* (UMH 156)

Children’s Time: Scouting Sunday - recognize Scouts

Social media:

NOTE: Native American Ministries Sunday - special offering

Discussion points:

May 8, 2022: “A New Vision”

Easter 4 - Mother’s Day

Scripture: Revelation 7: 9-17 (NIV) “The Great Multitude in White Robes”

⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.”

¹¹ All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

¹² saying:

“Amen!
Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honor

and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!”

¹³ Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

¹⁴ I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Therefore,

“they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne
will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶ ‘Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.
The sun will not beat down on them,^[a]
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷ For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will be their shepherd;

‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’^[b]

‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’^[c]”

Footnotes:

- a. [Rev. 7:16](#) Isaiah 49:10
- b. [Rev. 7:17](#) Isaiah 49:10
- c. [Rev. 7:17](#) Isaiah 25:8

Synopsis: Revelation was first written to offer hope in difficult times and encouragement for those who were struggling to remain faithful to God. The message hasn’t changed. Faith in Jesus doesn’t guarantee an easy life here on earth, but it does offer assurance that we are not alone.

Felt need: To find hope in the midst of difficult times

Visuals: white robe, palms, angels, lamb

Hands-on item:

Activity: Special prayers for all experiences of mothering/being mothered

Media possibilities:

Music: *Marching to Zion* (UMH 733), *Crown Him with Many Crowns* (UMH 327), *Holy Ground* (FWS 2272), *You Are My Hiding Place, Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty* (UMH 64), *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (UMH 400), *Here I Am, Lord* (UMH 593)

Children’s Time:

Social media:

Discussion points:

May 15, 2022: “All Things New”

Easter 5 - Graduation Sunday

Scripture: Revelation 21: 1-6 (NIV) “A New Heaven and Earth”

Footnotes:

- a. [Rev. 21:1](#) Isaiah 65:17
- b. [Rev. 21:4](#) Isaiah 25:8

²¹ Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”^[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem,

coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’^[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

Synopsis: The vision of a new heaven and new earth is almost too good to be true, but that’s where we place our ultimate hope - that God’s goodness will win out against evil.

Felt need: To claim the hope that goodness will prevail over evil

Visuals: NEW, water

Hands-on item:

Activity:

Media possibilities:

- "All Things New (New Years)." Length: 1:45. Cost: \$19.99. Web license. A lot has happened in one year. Where does our hope come from? Real hope is found in God... who makes all things new. <https://www.sermonspice.com/sermon-illustrations/48825/all-things-new-new-years>
- “Reverse Thinking.” Length: 2:20. Cost: \$14.99. Web license: No. This short video is a poem that demonstrates how God reverses the way we see things. <https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/37685/reverse-thinking>

Music: *O God, Our Help In Ages Past* (UMH 117), *This is a Day of New Beginnings* (UMH 383), *Be Thou My Vision* (UMH 451), *Forth in Thy Name, O Lord* (UMH 438)

Children’s Time:

Social media:

Discussion points:

May 22, 2022: “Thy Kingdom Come”

Easter 6

Rev. Susan Hagans preaching

Scripture: Revelation 21: 10, 22 – 22:5 (NIV)

The New Jerusalem, the Bride of the Lamb

¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

²² I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵ On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶ The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. ²⁷ Nothing impure will ever

enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Eden Restored

22 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Synopsis: At the end of the powerful vision in Revelation, God's Kingdom has come to be here on Earth, and the vision points to God as Healer who brings people together.

Felt need: To pray for, work for, and trust in the healing that only God can bring

Visuals: light, lamp, river with trees

Hands-on item:

Activity: Healing prayers

Media possibilities:

Music: *Lead On, O King Eternal* (UMH 580), *Abide With Me* (UMH 700), *Be Thou My Vision* (UMH 451)

Children's Time:

Social media:

Discussion points:

May 29, 2022: "Jesus Is on the Way"

Easter 7/Ascension Sunday

Memorial Day weekend - **One service at 10:00 a.m.**

Scripture: Revelation 22: 7-21 (NIV)

⁷ "Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll."

⁸ I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me.

⁹ But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!"

¹⁰ Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near. ¹¹ Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy."

Epilogue: Invitation and Warning

¹² "Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

¹⁴ “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. ¹⁵ Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

¹⁶ “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you^[a] this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

¹⁷ The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

¹⁸ I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. ¹⁹ And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.

Synopsis: The ending of Revelation - and all of Scripture - is a vision of redemption and restoration that brings us back to the glory of creation and new life. The promise we cling to is that God is working to bring this vision to pass. Our part is to remain faithful and commit to making the vision a reality here and now - sharing the joy of faith in Jesus.

Felt need: To remain faithful until Christ comes again

Visuals: Greek letters alpha and omega, water, garden

Hands-on item:

Activity: Reaffirmation of Holy Baptism, Consecration of Memorials, Memorial Garden opening?

Media possibilities:

- “Alpha and Omega.” Length: 2:30. Cost: \$19.08. Web license: Yes. This mini-movie features stars, distant galaxies, planets and nebulae to depict the awesome wonder of God’s creation. The text, inspired by Revelation 22, contrasts His power with His profound intimacy. <https://www.sermonspice.com/sermon-illustrations/96655/alpha-and-omega>
- “Our King Will Return.” Length: 0:46. Cost: \$12.00. Web license: Yes. Our faith is strengthened when we recognize that our king, Jesus, will return one day. We must hold true to His promises. <https://www.sermonspice.com/sermon-illustrations/107553/our-king-will-return>

Music: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* (UMH 139), *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters* (UMH 605)

Children’s Time:

Social media:

Discussion points:

Footnote:

- a. [Rev. 22:16](#) The Greek is plural.