

LARGE PRINT

Worship Celebration

Ascension Sunday
Festival of the Christian Home

May 12, 2024 + 9 AM

We Gather as God's Children

Welcome

Prelude

In the Garden

arr. Joel Raney

+ Call to Worship

Easter people, raise your voices, for you belong to the Risen Christ!
We belong to Christ, and so we share in Christ together.

Just as we share in Christ together,
so we are called to share Christ with the world.

***We share Christ by proclaiming the good news
of God's love to the world.***

How will you share God's love with the world?

***By loving, respecting, and honoring our neighbors,
especially those the world neglects, overlooks, and ignores.***

Easter people, you belong to the Risen Christ!

***Because we belong to Christ, we will share Christ's love
and belonging everywhere we go.***

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Reprinted with permission of Discipleship Ministries (umcdiscipleship.org),
January 2023.*

+ Hymn

Because He Lives

UMH 364

Prayers of the People (Seeking & Offering Peace)

Music of Meditation & Reflection

The Lord's Prayer

We Grow in God's Word

Leader: With disciples of every time and place,
let us listen for the word of God among us.

People: *Our ears and hearts are open.*

First Lesson — Luke 24.44-53 (*NRSVUE*)

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Second Lesson — Acts 1.1-11 (*NRSVUE*)

1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach **2** until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. **3** After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. **4** While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; **5** for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

Rev. Carrie Antczak & Rev. Janis Montgomery

+ Hymn

They'll Know We are Christians By Our Love

TFWS 2223

Invitation to Give our Tithes and Offerings

Choir Anthem

All Praise to Thee

Thomas Ken, Thomas Tallis
arr. Marie Pooler

+ Doxology

Alleluia, Alleluia (v. 1 and refrain)

UMH 162

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord!

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord!

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Compassionate Creator, in our communal life,
may our actions, love, and giving
reflect Christ's presence within us.*

*Help us live in a way that displays Christ's life in us,
showcasing love, respect, and hospitality.*

*As we share and give, may it reflect not only on us
but also glorify Jesus.*

*Guide us in honoring one another
and celebrating our commitments as part of our faith.*

*In gratitude, abundance, and equity,
we present these offerings,*

believing that sharing Christ is the most loving act.

*In the name of Jesus, our rock and redeemer, we pray.
Amen.*

Based on John 17:6-19. Reprinted with permission of Discipleship Ministries (umcdiscipleship.org).

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn

A Charge to Keep I Have

UMH 413

+ Benediction

May our Loving God reassure you this day that all will be well.

May we reassure future generations that they are not alone.

May our Nurturing God feed your spirits well,
and guide your feet to peace.

***May we support and encourage those around us
to continue the good work of Christ.***

Amen.

Reprinted with permission of the author, Rev. Carrie Antczak.

Postlude

Open My Eyes, That I Might See

Clara H. Scott
arr. Joel Raney

***Our service of worship is ended.
Our worship through service now begins.***