



“Why do you stand there, looking up towards heaven?” Acts 1:11

A Service for the Worship of God
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Ascension of the Lord
May 24, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

PREPARATION

- *Please set out a candle that you can light as we light the Christ Candle during worship.*

Gathering Around God’s Word

Prelude

Jim Pera

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Drew Fisher

Call to Worship

*One: : Although we are worshiping from different homes today,
we are gathered to give glory to Jesus Christ*

All: who calls us to follow in footsteps of love and mercy.

One: We are gathered to praise God

All: who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.

One: We are gathered to give thanks to the Holy Spirit

**All: who chooses even you and me
to receive and carry the Word of life and hope.
Thanks be to God!**

1 Come, Chris - tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3 Praise yet our Christ a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Let prais - es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - jice;
 He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Prayer of Adoration and Praise (*In Unison*)

Gracious God, we praise you that you sent Jesus into this world to teach and embody your holy love. We are grateful that, through Jesus, you include the likes of us to serve as faithful disciples. Though Christ is hidden from our sight, enable us to abide in him, by the power of your Holy Spirit, and to radiate your love. Amen.

Celtic Alleluia



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.
Je - sus we praise you as Lord; All of the earth gives you
glo - ry for your ma - jes - ty — fills the hea - ven, fills the earth.

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Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

Hearing God's Word

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 1:17-21

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

Children's Time

Nancy Birdsong

Scripture Reading

Acts 1:1-14

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 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. 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; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon

4 O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall;
 2 Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, ye ran-somed from the fall,
 3 Let ev - ery kin-dred, ev - ery tribe on this ter - res - trial ball
 4 O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 to him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 To him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
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Presentation of Offerings

If you would like to give online, please go to www.sminster.com/give where you can give once or set-up a reoccurring monthly offering to the church.

Presentation Hymn # 246

“Christ is Alive!

verse 5

Organist will play it once. Then, we all will sing it.

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn # 265

“Jesus Shall rign Where’er the Sun”

verses 1, 4 and 5

(See hymn on next page)

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - oners
 5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown his head; his name, like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song, and in - fant voic - es
 leap to loose their chains; the wea - ry find e -
 cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume, shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud A - men!

Benediction

Response to Benediction "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" *Hymn 541, verse 1*
Ruth Whatley, soloist

Postlude