

**ASCENSION OF THE LORD
SUNDAY
MAY 21, 2023**

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Prelude Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Organist

Welcome and Greeting in Jesus' Name

***Easter Proclamation:**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen, Indeed! Alleluia!

***Opening (Stand) # "Shine Jesus Shine" Worship Team**

***Call to Worship (Stand)**

Gather, O People, in the presence of the Lord.

Let a holy people assemble before the holy and everlasting God.

Even the floods exalt the Lord.

The roaring sea glorifies him!

Sing praises to our Sovereign God; sing praises!

God reigns over all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!

The Lord is awesome; he is highly exalted,

The Most High over all the nations!

†Timothy Matthew Slemmons, "Lightening from the East: Liturgical Elements for Reformed Worship, Year A." ©2014. Cascade Books, Eugene, OR. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

***Opening Prayer (Stand)**

Song of Faith # "Glorious Day" Worship Team

Proclamation of Faith & Forgiveness

Alleluia # "Alleluia" Worship Team

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Scripture Reader: Fran Seymour Hunter

The First Reading Acts 1:1-11

The Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

***The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ Luke 24:44-53**

***Responsorial (Stand) "The Blessing" Worship Team**

***Greeting and Sharing Peace with Family and Neighbors (Stand)**

Children's Sermon (Kids 3rd Grade and Younger can walk to Children's Church)

Announcements & Prayers of the Community 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.

Presentation of Tithes, Gifts, and Donations - Worshipers are invited to give their tithes, gifts, and offerings to the Lord.

Prayer of Dedication – We thank you, O Lord, that you have so established this world that it shall never be moved. Rather, you have moved the hearts of your people with faith in the Lord Jesus and with love toward all the saints; therefore, let these gifts be used in concert with the movement of your Spirit, in the service of your majesty, and in the blessing of those who stand in need.

A Prayer of Illumination & The Message

The Reverend Beverly McCurdy, Retired UMC Clergy

WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH & SERVICE

Invitation to Faith and Fellowship – If the Spirit of God is moving you to receive God's forgiving love in Jesus, calling you to be a follower of Jesus in the waters of baptism or encouraging you to join this Christian Church, please come forward during this song.

***Closing Hymn (Stand) # "Spirit of the Living God" Worship Team**

***Spoken Benediction**

***Postlude** Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Organist

HOW TO BECOME A FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF JESUS

GOOD NEWS! God loves you and wants to rescue all people from the consequences of evil. The Bible teaches the way to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ:

1. **ADMIT** – Admit to God you have done wrong things (sinned) which have hurt God and others. Apologize to God and turn away from harmful behavior and start doing good things (See Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:9; Acts 3:19).
2. **BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOU AND GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD** – Accept and trust that Jesus is God's one and only Son who died on the cross in your place and give God the credit for raising Jesus from the dead (See Romans 5:8; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31a; John 3:16; 1 Peter 3:18; John 14:6).
3. **CONFESS JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD** – Make a religious commitment to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus by trusting Him to be your Rescuer and Redeemer (Savior) and Ultimate Leader (Lord). (See Romans 10:9 and 10; Romans 10:13; Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23)
4. **DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO THE JESUS WAY** - Tell your family and friends about your new trust in Jesus Christ by coming to the front of the Sanctuary at the end of a worship service to publicly share your decision to be a follower of Jesus (Christian).

HOW TO JOIN THIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH - COME FORWARD – Any person professing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and accepting the Baptist principles, practices, and the covenant of this church, may join this Christian church. Persons interested in affiliating should speak with the Pastor, Moderator, or come forward at a meeting of the congregation. A person may join by Believer's Baptism, Letter of Transfer from a previous Christian church with prior baptism, or a Satisfactory Statement of Christian Faith.



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