



The Worship of God

Ascension Sunday • May 24, 2020

PRELUDE

“Largo” from Xerxes

George Frideric Handel

Chad Hammer, cello

[The long tones, the slow pace, and the chords moving throughout the piece might match a time of waiting, waiting in hope.]

INTROIT

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

MFURAHINI, HALELUYA

CALL TO WORSHIP

Linda Rowell & Stephanie Reeves

*(All speak parts **boldfaced**)*

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

We are witnesses: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Risen Christ meets us again and again; opening our eyes and expanding our minds. Let us worship God.

HYMN

Lift Up Your Hearts, Believers!

LANCASHIRE

*Lift up your hearts, believers! This is the holy day
when Jesus, our Redeemer, completes salvation's way.
The forty days are over and clouds shine high and bright
as Christ, the Overcomer, is lifted from our sight.*

*Lift up your hearts, believers! Ye gates, lift up your heads!
Though minds be full of wonder, though souls be filled with dread.
The Spirit has been promised and though we are alone
we wait until the moment when fire and wind are known.*

TEXT: Sylvia Dunstan, 1955-1993 TUNE: Henry Thomas Smart, c. 1835
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PRAYER OF ADORATION

Holy One, Bridger of Distance, Connector of Beings, hear our prayer. In the midst of non-stop news stories about illness and scarcity, press conferences and cancellations, **grant us quiet in our minds.**

In the midst of heightened anxiety about caregivers and caregiving, about health and hygiene, **grant us calm in our hearts.**

In the midst of opposing views: close doors or stay open, reach out or hunker down, **grant us peace in our spirits.**

In the midst of our lives: our good days and bad, our hopes and longings,
grant us an abiding sense of Your Comfort.

You came, you lived, you died, you rose again. **You gave us your commandments, which we try awfully hard to remember and follow.** Then you left, with a promise to return.

In the midst of our forgetting and wanderings, **grant us the courage to confess, the strength to repent, and the faith to believe your grace is sufficient.**

We pray this in your holy and precious name, **Amen.**

RESPONSE OF PRAISE *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* ALLELUIA NO. 1

Gail Thomas, soprano; Wayne Tillman, tenor; Lynn Auman, violin; Chad Hammer, cello

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

TEXT: Donald Fished, 1971 TUNE: Donald Fishel, 1971; arr. Betty Pulingham and Donald Fishel, 1979
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GOSPEL READING Acts 1:1-11

SERMON “Now What?” Rev. Laura Viau

INVITATION TO GIVE You may opt to give online or via mail

“Easter People” Bryan Sirchio

Offered by the Easter Readers

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER

(Prayers include adapted material from Rev. Joanna Harader; Rev. Mary Austin, Episcopal Book of Common Prayer; and, “Be Still, My Soul” in PD.)

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Help us to lament in spirit and truth.
(Listen in prayer to, “Be Still My Soul.”)

.....

May Your peace be with us.
*(Sung) Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

.....
as well as our new crisis.

*(Sung) Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence, let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds shall know
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.*

.....
Help us to do so willingly and gracefully.

*(Sung) Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on.
When we shall be forever with the Lord;
when disappointment grief and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*

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.

BENEDICTION AND CHARGE

CLOSING RESPONSE

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

MRURAHINI, HALELUYA

POSTLUDE

Thine Is the Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS

Rev. Laura Viau, Interim Pastor (laurabviau@gmail.com);

Robin Fort, Director of Music; **Randy Warner**, Organist/Pianist;

Joyce Winkler, Qualified Ruling Elder; **Stephanie Reeves**, Church Secretary;

Linda Rowell, Church Treasurer; **Crystal Braxton**, Nursery;

Hery Ramambasoa, Regional Liaison for Southeast Asia and the Pacific

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PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL. ☺