

WORSHIPING THE ASCENDED CHRIST

May 13, 2018 - 10:30 AM

Please silence all communication devices. Hearing Assistance Devices and Large Print Bibles are available; please ask an Usher. Children's Bulletins and "Quiet Bags" are available at the Welcome Table.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP *Crown Him With Many Crowns* Arr. by Molly iJames

Please take this time to quietly meditate on the following Scripture passage as you prepare your heart to worship the Lord.

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Colossians 3:1-2 (ESV)

*CALL TO WORSHIP **2 Peter 3:9-10, 14, 17-18; Revelation 22:20-21 (ESV)**

As God's Word calls us to worship, let's shout these words to one another recognizing that our worship is a response to God's gracious call.

Leader: The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief.

People: **But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

Leader: Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability.

People: **But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever and to the day of eternity. Amen!**

Leader: He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all.

ALL: **Amen!**

*HYMN OF PRAISE #295 *Crown Him With Many Crowns*

*PRAYER OF ADORATION Rev. Allan Harmening

*WORSHIP IN SONG *Days Of Elijah* *You Said*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

After the public confession below, you are encouraged to confess your sins silently to God.

Our Father, I am sinful and You are holy. I recognize that I have heard in Your Law difficult words, knowing how often I have offended You in thought, word and deed, not only by obvious violations, but by failing to conform to its perfect commands, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. There is nothing in me that gives me reason for hope, for where I thought I was well, I am sick in my soul. My heart is filled with the love of the world; my mind is dark and is assailed by doubts; my will is too often given to selfishness and my body to laziness and unrighteousness. Forgive me for sinning against my neighbors, in whose image they were created. Forgive me for sinning against You, through the shed blood of your Son, my Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen!

COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF THE GOSPEL **Acts 10:43 (ESV)**

*To him all the prophets bear witness
that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.*

**For those who are able, please stand.*

A MOTHER'S DAY DEVOTION

2 Timothy 1:5 (ESV)

I am reminded of your sincere faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and our mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

*GREETING OF PEACE

Romans 5:1-2 (ESV)

Please take this opportunity to greet those around you, offering them the right hand of fellowship and the peace which is only found in Christ.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

[Pray] *at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.*

WORSHIPING THE LORD WITH HIS TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

Please take a moment to sign our "Fellowship Pad" and pass it along to those worshiping with you. Thank you! The offering is a vital part of our response to God and God's Word. It helps us connect our adoration for God with our life of discipleship.

Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth.

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 (ESV)

OFFERTORY

Jesus, My All, To Heaven Has Gone

Setting by Howard Helvey

*CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Heidelberg Catechism, Questions 46, 47, 49

Question: What do you mean by saying, "He ascended to heaven?"

Answer: **That Christ, while his disciples watched, was lifted up from the earth to heaven and will be there for our good until he comes again to judge the living and the dead.**

Question: But isn't Christ with us until the end of the world as he promised us?

Answer: **Christ is truly human and truly God. In his human nature Christ is not now on earth; but in his divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit, he is not absent from us for a moment.**

Question: How does Christ's ascension to heaven benefit us?

Answer: **First, he pleads our cause in heaven in the presence of his Father. Second, we have our own flesh in heaven - a guarantee that Christ our head will take us, his members, to himself in heaven. Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth as a further guarantee. By the Spirit's power we make the goal of our lives, not earthly things, but the things above where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.**

SCRIPTURE READING (page 909 in blue pew Bible)

Acts 1:6-11

SERMON

"Gazing Into Heaven"

Rev. David Stain

Pastor, Spring Hills Presbyterian Church

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #296 (stanzas 1, 3, 5-6) *All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name!*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

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