

Ascension of the Lord

May 16th, 2021

11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Prelude in C Major

Georg Böhm

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 47

One: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Come and worship, people of God!

All: Let us celebrate with songs of praise!

One: For our God – the Most High – is seated on his holy throne.

All: Sovereign over all the earth!

One: Let us worship God together.

✦ HYMN

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone

Chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one

Holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone

To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, and stay

Come, with all your loving kindness; hear your people as we pray

And your fullest benediction shed within these walls today

Here bestow on all your servants what they seek from you to gain

What they gain from you, forever with the blessed to retain

And hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign

✦ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all hope and joy, we confess that we continue to live in fear. While Jesus was with us on earth, we dismissed him as a heavenly dreamer. Now that he reigns in the heavens, we forget that he is Lord of all the earth. Forgive us, God of grace. Be the sovereign of our lives. Send us your Spirit to make us always ready to welcome your return in glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

✦ ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

One: We were made by God, brought forth from the earth that was called good when God created it.

All: We are blessed by our Creator, called forth to care for the earth and all who dwell in it.

One: Let us go into the world, knowing that we are forgiven and loved by the God who made the earth, and made us.

All: Let us go into the world and share the Good News. Amen.

✠RESPONSE *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* WESTMINSTER ABBEY
**Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son
Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one
One in might and one in glory while unending ages run**

✠PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Please refrain from bodily contact and maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance from other households as we pass the peace this morning.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

HEBREW BIBLE READING Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

I Will Sing with the Spirit

John Rutter

I will sing with the spirit, I will sing with the spirit:

Alleluia, alleluia!

And I will sing with the understanding also:

Alleluia, alleluia!

NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 11:19-30

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sarah Morgan

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✠AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *adapted from* The Theological Declaration of Barmen
Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death. As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. The Christian Church is the congregation of the brethren in which Jesus Christ acts presently as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. As the church of pardoned sinners, it has to testify in the midst of a sinful world, with its faith as with its obedience, with its message as with its order, that it is solely his property, and that it lives and wants to live solely from his comfort and from his direction in the expectation of his appearance.

TIME FOR REFLECTION

All Hail the Power

arr. M. Ham/K. Varner

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION 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 OF SENDING *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* BEECHER

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old
Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense
Help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge said with care
Bring new power and strength for action make us colleagues free and fair

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace

✠ BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

✠ POSTLUDE *Fugue in C Major* Georg Böhm

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Sarah Morgan – Pastor
Clara Hardin - Liturgist
Matthew Mimbs – Director of Music & Arts
David Stultz – Asst. Director of Music/Organist
2nd Presbyterian Chancel Choir
Emily McTyre – Media Coordinator

Ushers/Greeters: Doug Matthews, Leslie Matthews, Cleston Jones
Technicians: Dale Henley (video), Paul Sexauer (audio)