

Sunday, May 24, 2020

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Ascension Sunday

Order of Service

Gathering Song..... **“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”** (*Hymnal, #334*)

There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it’s the spirit of the Lord; There are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord. Sweet holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us filling us with your love; and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

Greeting/Call to Worship..... **Sister Cynthia**

Leader: Christ, as you have lived for others.

People: **draw us together as your church!**

Leader: Christ, as you have risen from the dead.

People: **Raise us up to new life in you!**

Leader: Christ, as you have ascended into glory.

People: **Send us forth to share your love.**

ALL: **Gracious is our God. Blessed are we, servants of God. Let us call upon God’s name and give thanks.**

Hymn of Praise **“Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending”**

1. Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favored sinners slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train,
Hal-le-lu-jah! Hal-le-lu-jah! Hal-le-lu-jah!
God appears on earth to reign.
2. Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

3. The dear tokens of his passion still his
dazzling body bears; cause of endless
exultation to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture,
with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!
4. Yea, Amen! Let all adore thee, high on
thine eternal throne; Saviour, take the
power and glory, claim the kingdom for
thine own: Hal-le-lu-jah! Hal-le-lu-jah!
Hal-le-lu-jah! Everlasting God, come
down!

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

Ever living God, we confess to you all the ways that we have lost our focus on you and your unending love for us. We often have chosen greed over generosity, indifference over compassion. For all that we have done and left undone, we seek your pardon and ask your forgiveness. Fill us with the assurance of your pardon, that we may know the depth of your love and confidence of your forgiveness, in Jesus name we pray. **Amen.**

The Invocation..... **Sister LáAngel**

Song of Meditation — “I Love the Lord” (*Whitney Houston*)

The Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

As we journey into the sacred story, help us along the path toward faithfulness. Create in our lives a place of faith, hope, and love in the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 (*Acts 1:6–14, Common English Bible*) **Sister Pat**

⁶ As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, “Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?” ⁷ Jesus replied, “It isn’t for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹ After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. ¹¹ They said, “Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven.”

Jesus’ followers in Jerusalem

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem—a sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³ When they entered the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter, John, James, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James, Alphaeus’ son; Simon the zealot; and Judas, James’ son— ¹⁴ all were united in their devotion to prayer, along with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Scripture Reading #2 (*1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11, Common English Bible*) **Sister Tina**

¹² Dear friends, don’t be surprised about the fiery trials that have come among you to test you. These are not strange happenings. ¹³ Instead, rejoice as you share Christ’s suffering. You share his suffering now so that you may also have overwhelming joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are mocked because of Christ’s name, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory—indeed, the Spirit of God—rests on you.

⁶ Therefore, humble yourselves under God’s power so that he may raise you up in the last day. ⁷ Throw all your anxiety onto him, because he cares about you. ⁸ Be clearheaded. Keep alert. Your accuser, the devil, is on the prowl like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith. Do so in the knowledge that your fellow believers are enduring the same suffering throughout the world. ¹⁰ After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, the one who called you into his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will himself restore, empower, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be power forever and always. Amen.

Scripture Reading #3 (*John 17:1–11, Common English Bible*) **Sister Chantel**

¹⁷ When Jesus finished saying these things, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, so that the Son can glorify you. ² You gave him authority over everyone so that he could give eternal life to everyone you gave him. ³ This is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you sent. ⁴ I have glorified you on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ Now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I shared with you before the world was created.

⁶ “I have revealed your name to the people you gave me from this world. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ This is because I gave them the words that you gave me, and they received them. They truly understood that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

⁹“I’m praying for them. I’m not praying for the world but for those you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ Everything that is mine is yours and everything that is yours is mine; I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ I’m no longer in the world, but they are in the world, even as I’m coming to you. Holy Father, watch over them in your name, the name you gave me, that they will be one just as we are one.

Doxology – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” (*Recite in unison*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be low; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

The Affirmation of Faith — “The Apostles’ Creed” (*recite in unison*)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, dead, and buried:
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
 and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

The Gloria Patri – “Glory Be to the Father” (*Recite in unison*)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. **Amen.**

Children / Youth Moment**Sister Jaime**

Hymn of Preparation — “Blessed Quietness” (*sing along with West LA COGIC*)

1. Joys are flowing like a river,
 Since the Comforter has come;
 He abides with us forever,
 Makes the trusting heart His home.

Refrain:
 Blessed quietness, holy quietness—
 What assurance in my soul!
 On the stormy sea He speaks peace to me.
 How the billows cease to roll!

2. Bringing life and health and gladness
 All around, this heavenly Guest
 Banished unbelief and sadness,
 Changed our weariness to rest.
Refrain

3. Like the rain that falls from heaven,
 Like the sunlight from the sky,
 So the Holy Ghost is given,
 Coming to us from on high.
Refrain

4. See a fruitful field is growing
 Blessed fruits of righteousness,
 And the streams of life are flowing
 In the lonely wilderness.
Refrain

Inspirational Message..... Rev. Eugene Matthews

“Don’t Look Up, Look Out”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call Rev. Eugene Matthews

Selection — “We Shall Behold Him” (*Vicki Winans*)

Benediction

Announcements

Sunday, June 7th — Peace with Justice Sunday. If you could make a sacrificial donation in your on-line giving, it will be appreciated.

Equipping the United Methodist Church to Do Justice in Jesus' Name —

When you give on Peace with Justice Sunday, your gift makes possible our critical kingdom work in the world. Because you give: (1) Methodists spearhead a peace ministry uniting Arizona border communities; (2) United Methodists in Liberia are being equipped to implement the denomination's Social Principles to address social-justice issue; and (3) Pennsylvania students are educating their community about sex-trafficking at home and abroad. These initiatives, and hundreds of other ones, are possible because you give.

130th Anniversary Shirts — I'm sure you have seen the email about the purchasing of our commemorative shirts. **Sizes:** Small to XL = \$15; 2X = \$17; 3X = \$19. **If you are interested in purchasing a shirt, please contact Millicent at the church email.**



Front



Back

Churches are to remain closed until **June 8th**.

Annual Conference will be held on **Saturday, September 12th**. (place has not been designated).

General Conference — August 31, 2021–September 10, 2021

Jurisdictional Conference — TBA



*“Proclaiming Christ to the generations...
Equipping disciples to transform the world”*

Special Prayers / Sick and Shut-In List: If you hear of anyone that is in need of special prayer or is taken to the hospital, please contact: Rev. Eugene Matthews (443.257.2730 (cell), 410.379.0600 (home), reveugene@comcast.net)

*Condolence to the family of the late
James (Jim) Thomas*

Viewing: Friday, May 29, 2020 — 2:00–6:00 p.m.

Viewing: Saturday, May 30, 2020 — 10:00–11:00 a.m.

Funeral (family only): Saturday, May 30, 2020 — 11:00 a.m.

Howell Funeral Home

*10220 Guilford Road
Jessup, MD 20794*

Rev. George F. DeFord, Sherman / Erica Roy, Janeen Thomas, Eunice Harding (Gemma's Mother), Tyrone / Pat Mundell, Samuel / James Briggs (Cynthia Burley's brothers), Barbara Matthews, Charles Burley, Richard Cager, Jr., Joan Moore, Larry Powell, Veronica Miller, Jeanette Reeves, Ernestine Gibson, Grace Elaine Catchings, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Laura Dotson, Mildred Awkward, Phillip Reese, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Nancy Daniels, Eunice Parker, Hannah Polk, Delores Tyler

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