



ASCENSION SUNDAY

May 24, 2020

First Presbyterian Church 1573 N. Highland Avenue Jackson, TN 38301 731-422-1591 fpcjacksontn.org

ASCENSION SUNDAY

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GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

How Great Thou Art
Helen Redding

arr. by Held

LITANY FOR ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Rev. Courtney Bowen and Jeff Chambers

Leader: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with songs of joy.
Life up your hearts.

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Leader: God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Life up your hearts.

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Leader: God is ruler over all the earth; the Lord reigns on a holy throne.
Life up your hearts.

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Leader: God put this power to work in Christ, raising him from the dead.
Life up your hearts.

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Leader: God has highly exalted him, giving him the name above all names.
Life up your hearts.

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Leader: Jesus Christ is Lord! Glory to God in the highest.
Life up your hearts.

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Leader: Let us pray. Most High God, we are witnesses: to the life of Jesus Christ our Lord: written in the Law, promised by the prophets, sung by the psalmists; given in love for the world, risen from the dust of death, lifted up in heavenly glory.

People: *Let our lives proclaim Christ's life. Draw us into your presence that we may worship you always, continually blessing your name; through Jesus Christ our Savior who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

MUSIC

All Hail the Power of Jesus Name
Jeff Chambers, Soloist

arr. by Paul Simon

TO PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen and Jeff Chambers

Leader: Our Savior Jesus, even while we extol you as Divine Sovereign whose authority is above all earthly power, we have failed to give you authority over even the smallest matters of our lives.

People: We confess our arrogant, self-centered exercise of power over matters in our lives, in our church, and in our world. We desperately cling to our own power, failing to yield to your divine authority, wisdom, guidance, and love.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, for the harm we have done to others and to ourselves. In your mercy, save us, Lord. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Courtney Bowen and Jeff Chambers

Leader: Jesus said to his disciples before he ascended to God,
“Repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in my name to all nations.”
Repent then, followers of Christ, and allow Christ to transform your lives.
Receive forgiveness in the name of the risen savior.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

A VIRTUAL PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE WORD

MUSIC

I Love You, Lord
Helen Redding

Klein

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Libby Smith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Courtney Bowen

MUSIC

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
Helen Redding

Medema

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jeff Chambers

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

Jeff Chambers

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 1:1-11

Rev. Courtney Bowen

SERMON

“Why Do You Stand Here?”

Rev. Courtney Bowen

RESPONSE

MUSIC

Forgiveness Waltz
Jeff Chambers, Soloist

Jonathan Rundman

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from “A Declaration of Faith”*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Jesus was dead and buried, but God raised him from the dead. The risen Lord appeared to his followers. They recognized him as their Master who had been crucified. Before Jesus left them, he commissioned them to proclaim to all people the good news of his victory over death, and promised to be with them always.

We are certain that Jesus lives. He lives as God with us, touching all of human life with the presence of God. He lives as one of us with God. Because he shares our humanity and has bound us to himself in love, we have an advocate in the innermost life of God. We declare that Jesus is Lord. His resurrection is a decisive victory over the powers that deform and destroy human life. His lordship is hidden. The world appears to be dominated by people and systems that do not acknowledge his rule. But his lordship is real. It demands our loyalty and sets us free from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us. We maintain that ultimate sovereignty now belongs to Jesus Christ in every sphere of life. Jesus is Lord. He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord.

OFFERING

Rev. Courtney Bowen

OFFERTORY

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Helen Redding

Milford

*Doxology (Tune: 591)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Dedicatory Prayer

Jeff Chambers

SENDING

CHARGE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Psalm XIX
Helen Redding

Marcello