



*Virtual Service of Worship for
Ascension Sunday
Sunday, May 16, 2021
Crossnore Presbyterian Church*

Gathering Music: *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*
Sung by In the Middle Choir: <https://youtu.be/N8iJ9CIS03o>

Welcome and Announcements (PDF attachment)

***Call to Worship:**

Why are we looking up to heaven?

Christ has come; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.

Why are we looking ahead to the future?

The Holy Spirit is among us now. In our baptism, we have already died and risen with Christ.

Why are we afraid of death and dying?

God's love casts out our fear.

Why are we afraid to follow Jesus?

In Christ, we have the promise of new life now, eternal life to come.

In Christ, we join our hearts to worship God who has prepared for us to enter the reign of God.

Hymn #265 *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

Text: Isaac Watts (1719, alt.); Music: John Hatton (1793 c.); Tune: DUKE STREET

Sing along with: <https://youtu.be/zNjdpdiK24I>

**Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

**To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head;
his name, like sweet perfume, shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.**

**People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.**

**Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the prisoner leaps to loose his chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.**

**Let every creature rise and bring
honors peculiar to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud Amen!**

Call to Confession:

While we claim to celebrate the Ascension of our Lord, at times the way we live proclaims our lack of faith in Christ's power in our lives and in the world. Let us confess the incongruity between our faith and practice.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

Almighty God, we confess that we let our fears get the better of us. At times we feel frozen, stuck right where we are, not only physically, but mentally and spiritually. We end up focused on the wrong things, looking back instead of looking forward. Remind us that we are not alone. Remind us that You are always present with us. Remind us that Your perfect love casts out fear. Restore us, O God, so we may know Your steadfast love endures forever. Amen and Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

God is on the move. God is in our hearts. God is by our side. God is with us. Know that God's love enfolds us, and covers us, and is with us always. We are God's beloved children. We are forgiven and restored. Share the good news. Share God's love and forgiveness. Amen.

Response to God's Grace and Mercy: *Amazing Grace*

Text: John Newton, 1772; Music: E.O. Excell, 1779

Sing along with Peter Hollens and Home Free: <https://youtu.be/7n145-J8ejg>

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be,
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

**First Lesson: Ephesians 1:17-23**

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only

in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Special Music: *All Glory Be to Christ* sung by the Petersons

<https://youtu.be/EexEDzJ6zIY>



Second Lesson: John 17:1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given

me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. *The Word of the Lord; Thanks be to God*

Sermon: “Living Into Eternal Life” (PDF attachment & Zoom Recording)

Rev. Kathy Campbell

***Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles Creed**

**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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
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 Ghost; the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn of Meditation # 353 *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Text: Edward Mote (1834 c., alt.); Music: William Batchelder Bradbury (1863, alt.); Tune: SOLID ROCK

Sing along with Jac Marino:

<https://youtu.be/x42r53W5wWY>

**My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

Refrain:

**On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.**

**When darkness seems to hide his face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]**

**His oath, his covenant, his blood
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]**

**When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne. [Refrain]**

Prayers of the People:

You are free, Lord,
your Ascension has set you free:
free from the constraints of human existence,
outside the limitations of time and space;
free to be here with us now,
in our worship and fellowship;
and free to be with us always;
for in your freedom
you have bound yourself to us with a promise:
**“Lo! I am with you always
even to the very end of time.”**

We pray, Lord, for those
who need to feel you close,
who need the assurance of your love,
the encouragement of your healing Spirit.

We pray for those who are persecuted,
who are discriminated against,
who are mocked because of their faith or race or gender.

We pray for those who are imprisoned,
who are tortured, who are exiled,
because they have fought, struggled and spoken out
for the rights of their people.

We pray for those who are destitute,
who are hungry, who are refugees,
because of the selfishness and apathy of the world.



We pray for those who are filled with guilt,
who are broken-hearted, who are perplexed,
because a relationship has gone wrong.

We pray for those who are feeling fed up,
who are ill, who are afraid,
who need your healing in body, mind or spirit.

We pray for those who are numbed,
who are angry, who are desolate,
because they are grieving.

We pray for those caught up in war,
and violence, and hatred;
the innocent victims and the perpetrators of these evils.

Be with us all, Lord:
in all our daily struggles as we seek to follow you.
Be with us all, Lord:
in our times of doubt and despair;
and in our times of happiness, health and loving.
Be with us all, Lord:
until that time
when in your Kingdom of Love
our joy will know no end.
In the name of Christ, we pray,
who taught his disciples to pray: Our Father...Amen.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:

As we celebrate Christ, the Ruler of all creation, may we also honor Christ by recommitting our whole lives—our gifts, our time, our resources—to God’s work here and now. Let us receive this morning’s offerings.



***Doxology # 608**

Text: Neil Weatherhogg, 1988; **Music:** Hal H. Hopson; **Tune:** PRAISE GOD (Hopson)

Sing along with Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC:

<https://youtu.be/BKcni5ilJI>

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

***Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

Bless these gifts, O Lord of all, that we might worship you with great joy and serve your people with great love. In Christ’s name. Amen.

Closing Hymn # 268 *Crown Him with Many Crowns

Text: Matthew Bridges (1851); **Music:** George Job Elvey (1868); **Tune:** DIADEMATA

Sing along with: https://youtu.be/s7OCs0d_4vM

(Follow the words and verses on the video)

***Charge and Benediction:**

As people of faith we have gathered for worship.

As people of faith we now return to the world.

Go out to share the story of faith,
the story of life, with the world around you.

**We share the faith in word and in deed,
in speech and in action.**

As you go out to give a living witness,
as you go out to testify to God's love active in the world,
go knowing that God goes with you,
sharing the laughter and the hope, the fears and the tears.

Thanks be to God! Amen.