

(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: *Glorious God, may these gifts bring glory to you and grace to your world. May our lives and our ministry reflect your love, and may we spread your message of love throughout the world. Amen.*

HYMN *O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life* Blue Hymnal, #432

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go forth with joy.
Go forth with hope.
Go forth with Christ's love leading the way.

All people: *Amen.*

CANDLE EXTINGUISHING Acolyte

POSTLUDE Mr. Kevin Crone

References

- All liturgy unless otherwise noted is from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024. Copyright © 2023 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.
- Call to Confession from <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/05/call-to-confession.html>
- Confession liturgy and Assurance of Forgiveness: © Presbyterian Outlook, 2024. Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott and provided for free distribution.
- All Scripture readings are taken from the Common English Bible (CEB), copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

May 12, 2024
Ascension of the Lord and Mother's Day

PREWORSHIP MUSIC Mr. Kevin Crone

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CANDLELIGHTING Acolyte

PRELUDE

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 47)

CHOIR sings: *Clap Your Hands* Blue Hymnal, #38

Pastor: Clap your hands and sing for joy!

All people sing: *Clap Your Hands* Blue Hymnal, #38

Pastor: Clap your hands and sing for joy!

All people sing: *Clap Your Hands* Blue Hymnal, #38

Pastor: Sisters and brothers clap your hands and sing for joy!
Let's worship the ascended Christ together!

All people sing: *Clap Your Hands* Blue Hymnal, #38

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All people: *Risen Christ, you are not only risen and alive, you are Lord. Today we marvel and celebrate of your ascension, your ascendancy over the whole universe. You stand over and above all that is best in life as its source. You stand above all that is worst as the ultimate victor. You stand above all powers and authorities as judge. You stand above all failure and weakness and sin as forgiveness and love. You alone are worthy of total allegiance, total commitment. You are Lord: 'My Lord and my God.' All hail the power of your holy name, Jesus!*

HYMN *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* Blue Hymnal, #91

CALL TO CONFESSION

Preacher: Friends, our high priest, Jesus Christ, knows all our weaknesses, and can sympathize, because he was tested in every way we are, only without sinning. So let's come boldly to the throne of grace, where we can find mercy and grace to help when we need it most.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All people: Forgiving and gracious God, you have called us to be the church, to live out our Resurrection faith. You have asked us to place our trust in you and to bring to all the good news of your saving love. But we have failed to do this. We have given our faith a back seat to the troubles of the world and to the stresses in our own life. We look for the quick and easy answers. Forgive us for the smallness of our faith. You, who raised Christ from the dead, have promised to raise our spirits and bring us to new life. You have done this and yet, we remain static in our response to you. Clear our spirits of the clutter of everyday living. Help us to be open always to your word and your love. Challenge us to move in the direction of peace and hope for all people. These things we pray in the name of our risen Lord. Amen,

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Christ forgives.
Christ transforms.
Christ renews.
Christ leads us down the path of new beginnings.

*All people: We are a new creation,
ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Amen.*

PRAISE HYMN

Halle, Halle, Halle

Blue Hymnal, #41

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

HYMN

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Blue Hymnal, #234

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:44-53

EPISTLE READING

Acts 1:1-11

SERMON & PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Laura C. Baker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All people: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: Please rise and stand as you are able. With songs of joy and hearts of love, let us bring our offerings and gifts to God in gratitude.

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

SUNG RESPONSE

Accept, O God, the Gifts

Blue Hymnal, #379