

PREWORSHIP MUSIC & PRELUDE

Mr. Cody Eckenrode

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Pastor: A new day has begun.

All: *Hope wins!*

Pastor: A fresh start is granted.

All: *Faith wins!*

Pastor: Today you have the opportunity to do something new.

All: *Hope wins!*

Pastor: Christ is entering your life in a new way.

All: *Faith wins!*

Pastor: Come, let us worship God, who is inviting us into life in a new way,
a way that transcends death, a way of hope and faith.

All: *Love wins! Let us worship Christ, who overcame death to give us new life!*

HYMN

Not Alone for Mighty Empire

Pew Hymnal, #442

CALL TO CONFESSION²

Pastor: You have heard what was written about Jesus in Scripture:
how he would suffer and die
and then rise from the dead on the third day;
how, through his death and resurrection,
the forgiveness of sin is now possible
for all who repent.
So let us boldly approach the throne of God,
where we will find grace and mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION³

All: *O Lord, we have not lived our lives as kingdom people. We place our crowns on hopelessness, fear, and selfishness. We are ruled by our schedules and our need for control. We make kings of the things we acquire and queens of our immediate desires. We forget that your kingdom draws near to us on earth, as it is in heaven. Forgive us, we pray. Come, Lord, and open in us the gates of your kingdom. Amen.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: The God of our Lord Jesus Christ blesses us and calls us “kingdom people.”
In the name of the reigning Christ, we are forgiven.

All: *Glory to God! Amen.*

Pastor: What great peace this provides us! Share the Good News, therefore, with those around you, saying:
Child of the King, peace be with you!

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

¹ Rev. Mindi. Call to Worship for Ascension Day. Posted on Rev-o-lution. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>

² Call to Confession 1: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/05/call-to-confession.html>. 18 May 2022.

³ Ministry Matters website. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/> 18 May 2022.

OLD TESTAMENT READING
EPISTLE READING
GOSPEL READING

Violated
Paul's Prayer
Witnesses to Ascension

Genesis 34
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

STUDY SERMON & PASTORAL PRAYER
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Laura C. Baker

All: *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.*

OFFERTORY INVITATION⁴

Liturgist: We believe in the God of justice and righteousness, and God believes in us to carry forth the mission of loving and caring for community. Therefore, let us now, share our gifts of time and talent and money so that we may continue to walk humbly with God and neighbors. Let us commit our whole selves with a prayer of dedication.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Liturgist: For the wondrous ways these offering will bless the community and world -
For the ways it'll help us be witnesses to God's love and compassion -

All: *We dedicate these gifts.*

Liturgist: Let this offering, and the works of our hands and feet,
give power to all we stand for as a community of faith.

All: *Amen.*

BENEDICTION⁵

Pastor: Kingdom People, as you go from this time of worship, remember:
The same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead
and placed all things under His authority—
this same power is at work within you
and in all who believe.

All: *As Kingdom People, praising God, we take our leave.
Our feet, hands, and hearts are ready to move according to God's mercy.
We lower our gaze from the heavens,
just as the disciples did after they saw Jesus ascend back to God.
Prepared, we take up the mission Jesus has left us:
to be his witnesses,
to tell everyone we meet who Jesus is,
and how he has changed us.*

Pastor: May the grace of God,
the love of Jesus Christ,
and the presence of the Holy Spirit
go with us all.

All: *Amen.*

⁴ Offertory Prayer/Prayer of Dedication: *Service Prayers for Ascension Day Year C* were written by Rev. Mia M. McClain, Associate Minister at Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC and a member of the Southern Conference UCC. 18 May 2022.

⁵ Benedictions 6 & 7. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/05/more-benedictions-for-ascension-day.html>. Adapted by Pastor Laura Baker. 18 May 2022.

HYMN

Lord, Be Glorified



1. In our lives, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied.
(my) (life)



In our lives, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to - day.
(my) (life)

2. In our homes ...
3. In your church ...
4. In your world ...

POSTLUDE