

June 5, 2011 SERVICE OF WORSHIP

11:00 am

Ascension Sunday

Liturgical Color: White

Preparation for Worship and Announcements

Dr. Mary Lynn Polk, Lay Leader

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, till all the world adore his sacred name.

***Passing of the Peace**

Chiming of the Trinity

Noel Johnson

Prelude

Praeludium from Liturgical Suite

Gordon Young

***Call to Worship**

Susan Pinckney

Leader: In awe and wonder, we lift our eyes to the heavens. We raise our songs of joy to the Ruler of all time and space.

People: **Sing praises to god, sing praises; shout to God with loud songs of joy.**

Leader: We gather to remember the One who shared our common lot. Jesus Christ, who visited this earth, dwells in heaven.

People: **We celebrate the life and ministry of Jesus. We rejoice in the hope to which Christ has called us.**

Leader: We open ourselves to baptism with the Holy Spirit. We expect to be empowered as a witness in today's world.

People: **We seek a spirit of wisdom and revelation. We are here to be filled with power from on high.**

***Hymn No. 312**

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

Llanfair

***Invocation**

The Reverend Terry C. Martin

As Christ ascended to heaven, our spirits are lifted to you this day, O God. Your Spirit fills all the universe. We dwell within your embrace and cannot escape from your watchful care. You are with us here, choosing us as apostles and instructing us in the way we should go. Focus our limited understanding on the person of Jesus, that all he did and taught might come alive in us during this hour. Grant to us convincing proof of your promises as we welcome your winds of change in our lives. Amen.

***A Modern Affirmation**

Pastor: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true Church, apostolic and universal, whose Holy faith let us now declare:

All: We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good. We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailling grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death. We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need. We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.

***Gloria Patri No. 70**

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. Amen.

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. 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.

Anthem

In Thee, Almighty King
Chancel Choir

Dan Forrest

Pastoral Prayer

The Reverend Terry C. Martin

Lord's Prayer (In unison)

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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.

Offering

Offertory

Aria from Liturgical Suite

Gordon Young

***Doxology 94**

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Children's Message

Susan Pinckney

All children are invited to the front of the Sanctuary for a special message. Following Children's Time, 3-year-olds through Kindergarteners may leave the Sanctuary for Extended Session.

***Hymn No. 66**

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Lauda Anima

†***Gospel Reading**

Luke 24:44-53

Page 133 (NT) in pew Bibles

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Story of Our Faith"

The Reverend Terry C. Martin

Sacrament of Holy Communion (Please see insert)

***Hymn No. 157**

Jesus Shall Reign

Duke Street

Commissioning of Salkehatchie Workers and Sending Forth into Ministry

(See Insert)

***Benediction**

Leader: In this place your healing has begun. **People** Now begins the healing of the world.
Leader: Go in peace. **All:** Amen.

***Postlude**

†**Sermon Text**

Please stand if you are able

Nursery Provided

In Thee Almighty King

Dan Forrest

In thee, Almighty King, what majesties abound,
within thy kingdom there is peace,
and glories all around.

Thy name we now exalt, to Thee we gladly sing.
Proclaiming honor, love, and power,
in Thee, Almighty King.

In Thee, O Precious Lord, is found redeeming grace.
Thy cleansing blood was freely given,
to save a sinful race.

So now we humbly stand to sing in one accord,
Eternal joy and endless life,
In Thee, O Precious Lord.

In Thee, Exalted Son, eternal life is found,
for death has lost the victory, and Thy head has been crowned.

Let all creation praise Thy name, O Living One!
With grateful hearts we now rejoice,
In Thee, Exalted Son,
In Thee, O Precious Lord,
In Thee, Almighty King!

Holy Communion

Call to Confession

On this day of mystery and wonder, we reflect on our record as Easter people. Is there evidence that Christ is alive within us and among us? Is the work of the Spirit obvious to any who observe our words and deeds? Let us admit how things are with us, as we seek God's forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession

Hear us, God our hope, for we have too easily denied our heritage amid the competing claims all around us. We declare ownership of what is only lent to us for a time. We strive for knowledge and control beyond our capacity, wanting power on our own terms rather than through the unpredictable empowerment of your Spirit. Sometimes we stand on tiptoe to view what is out of sight, then arrogantly conclude that there is nothing to see. O God, open our eyes and our hearts that we might be forgiven and find true life in you. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Repentance and forgiveness of sin are proclaimed in the name of Jesus Christ. Forgiveness is God's gift to us, one we can never earn but are welcome to accept. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

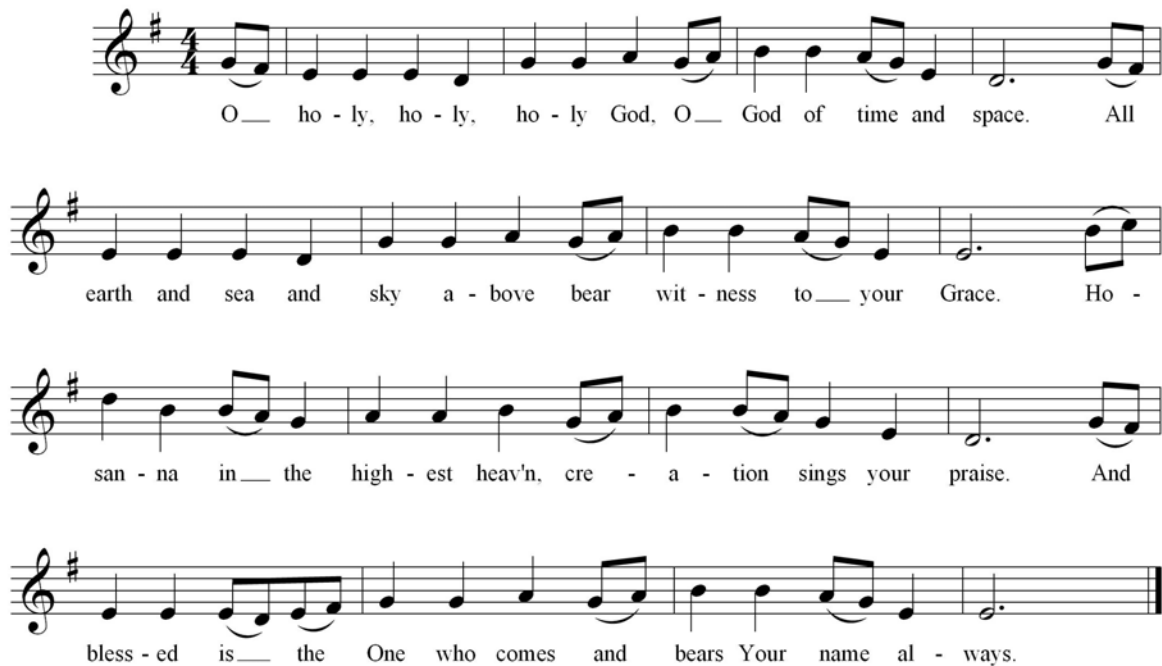
Blessed are you, our Alpha and Omega, whose strong and loving arms encompass the universe, for with your eternal Word and Holy Spirit you are forever one God.

Through your Word you created all things and called them good, and in you we live and move and have our being.

When we fell into sin, you did not desert us. You made covenant with your people Israel and spoke through prophets and teachers.

In Jesus Christ your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.



O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, O God of time and space. All
earth and sea and sky a - bove bear wit - ness to your Grace. Ho -
san - na in the high - est heav'n, cre - a - tion sings your praise. And
bless - ed is the One who comes and bears Your name al - ways.

Holy are you, and blessed is Jesus Christ, who called you Abba, Father.

As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own and filled them with a longing for a peace that would last and for a justice that would never fail.

In Jesus' suffering and death you took upon yourself our sin and death and destroyed their power forever. You raised from the dead this same Jesus, who now reigns with you in glory, and poured upon us your Holy Spirit, making us the people of the new covenant.

On the night before meeting with death, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over Jesus, took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.



Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts, that in the breaking of the bread and the drinking of this wine, we may know the presence of the living Christ and be renewed as the body of Christ for the world, redeemed by Christ's blood.

As the grain and grapes, once dispersed in the fields, are now united on this table in bread and wine, so may we and all your people be gathered from every time and place into the unity of your eternal household and feast at your table forever.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.



And now, as beloved children of a loving parent, we pray:

Christ Jesus, our Living Bread, we praise your mercy in the memorial of your love. As we keep in mind your life, death, and resurrection, let our Eucharistic banquet enable us to share with one another the goodness and love you have showered upon us. We ask this in your name. Amen.

The Pouring and Breaking and Serving

The Bread we break is the Bread of Life.

The Cup we share is the Cup of Promise.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Come and eat, the banquet awaits.

Music During Communion

When He Comes Again

Dick Blosser

Dick Blosser, piano, Joyce Nickles, organ

Prayer Following Communion

For the healing you have given us in the brokenness of bread and the pouring out of cup, we thank you. For the community that you have restored in us through the sharing of life, we thank you. For the courage and strength that you have promised to us, even as we have honored the ones of courage in our own past, we thank you. Send us forth from this place in love, letting justice be worked out with gentleness and power known in the presence of your Spirit. Amen.

SALKEHATCHIE COMMISSIONING

(On Saturday, June 18, youth and adults will leave to work on houses in the West Metro area of Columbia. On Saturday, July 9, youth and adults will go to Bamberg. Please keep these persons in your prayers throughout that week as they serve those in need.)

Minister: Sisters and brothers of the household of God, today we recognize the ministry of these persons and consecrate them to their mission work at the West Metro and Bamberg Camps in the Salkehatchie Summer Service, an outreach ministry of the United Methodist Church. All who take upon themselves the name of Christ are called into ministry filled with love and service by the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As these members of our church family minister to others, we pray the blessings of God and this congregation to go with them and that these same blessings may rest upon the families in whose homes they will work.

Salkehatchie Participants, on behalf of our church family, I commend you to the work of Salkehatchie and we pledge to you our prayers to strengthen and to protect you as you seek to serve Christ through the ministry called Salkehatchie.

Salkehatchie Workers:

We thank you for your prayers and we accept your blessings. We commit ourselves to serving as ambassadors of Main Street United Methodist Church and of Christ.

Congregation:

We recognize you as ambassadors of this church and of Christ as you minister to the families served by the West Metro and Bamberg Camps. We dedicate you to service in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Through our prayers we will be united with you. May God richly bless your labors and your lives.

Minister: Let us pray.

Gracious God, look upon these persons with favor as we send them forth. Be present with them, provide their every need, and pour your blessing upon them.

Strengthen us all in our Christian walk that we may always be in service to you and others. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Sending Forth into Ministry for Mallory Forte

Dear friends, today we are happy to recognize Mallory Forte and celebrate her entry into ministry.

Mallory, we rejoice with you as you enter into ministry. As you carry on in your ministry, we will stand with you and offer you our fullest support.

Congregation of Main Street United Methodist Church, I invite you to stand and join with me in prayer for Mallory and for her ministry.

God of grace and power, pour out your strength on Mallory as she ministers. Guide and strengthen her for her ministry in all that lies ahead, that together we may be one in ministry to all the world; through the One in whom we all are one, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
