



Valley United Methodist Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, May 21, 2023

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Thank you for joining in this worship service! We hope you will enter in the spirit of worship from wherever you are, and whenever you join. We'll follow this order of worship. You'll have to decide whether to stand () and sit when invited! If you're joining in real time, you can add your comments and/or prayer requests in the comments on our livestream [at this link](#). Words in **bold print** are read together. Words from our United Methodist Hymnal (UMH), The Faith We Sing songbook (FWS) and other sources will appear on screen. We're so glad you're here!*

Gathering Music	<i>Presto from the 5th Organ Concerto Allegretto Antigua</i>	Handel Koury
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Welcome

*Call to Worship	Thanks be to Christ Jesus who has called us into service and enlisted us in a new expedition. We are ready to map out the uncertain terrain that lies ahead. Let us gather provision for the next stage of our spiritual journey. We surge forward as comrades in the body of Christ. We do not know just what we may encounter. We open our hands, trusting our perfect guide Jesus, and ready for the Spirit's orders.
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adapted from Duck & Tirabassi, *Touch Holiness* (1992), 176

*Opening Hymn

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (UMH 154, stanzas 1-2, 4 & 6)

1-All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.

2-Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,
ye ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.

4-Let every kindred, every tribe
on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all.

6-O that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all.

*Opening Prayer

**Risen Savior, in love you came to earth
to set apart, prepare, and send out your faithful.
In love, we find our purpose.
In love, we are called to reach others
with your truth, presence, and grace.
In the name of the One who has
formed, redeemed, and inspired us,
as a different kind of community. Amen.**

Tirabassi & Tirabassi, *Before the Amen* (2007), 82, adapted

*Peace

The peace of Christ is with you.
And also with you.

Time with Children

Scripture Reading Acts 1.1-11

¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Message A People of Open Hands

Affirmation of Faith We are entrusted with God's Kin-dom.
Just as Jesus led the disciples as far as Bethany,
Jesus leads us to the edge and then sends us on.
We are a community, not abandoned,
but commissioned by God.
We are a community, not broken by the world,
but empowered for our time.
Let us state what we believe.
We believe in God, the creator of the universe:
**The one who began the dawn of all time,
the one who sets the time and keeps time,
the one who meets us in our time.**
We believe that all of God's creation is good:
**All things that creep and crawl and wander
and roam, God made for good.
All things that croak and moo and chirp
and even whisper, God made for good.
All things that lay dormant or spring up or rest,
God made each one good.**

We believe in Jesus, God's flesh on earth:
**Our brother who taught us faith,
Our savior who leads us on right paths
when we go astray.
Our Way, who aligns our life for goodness' sake.**

We believe in the Spirit, God's energy alive with us
in this precious moment:
**Source for all freedom,
the fiery power within and beyond us.
Power that stirs us from complacency.
Conviction of truth that cries for justice.**

We believe that every beginning and every ending
is fortified with God's grace.
**God is ours and we strain to see God.
We are the family of the earth,
the kin-dom of creation.
In God, we are redeemed and brought home.**

Let it be known in us, and in our living,
this day and for every gifted day to come.
Amen.

Call to Prayer *Imago Dei* (Richard Bruxvoort Colligan)
Time of Prayer

The Lord's Prayer **Our Creator, 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.**

A "Forward in Faith" Moment

Time of Offering

Offertory *Aria on "Southwell"* Johnson

Prayer of Consecration

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over
the waters and by Your Word you created the world, calling forth life in
which you took delight. We rejoice in the life, death, and resurrection of
your Son, which sets us free from the power of sin and death and raises
us up to life in you.
You are our refuge and our fortress, our God, in whom we trust.

Today, O God, we re-affirm our commitment to walking together as your redeemed and reconciled people. Lead us in the weaving of your love within a fragmented world, to nurture and feed each other, to reach out and embrace with your Shalom all people in the name of Jesus Christ.

You are our refuge and our fortress, our God, in whom we trust.

Guide us, O God through your Holy Spirit that Valley United Methodist Church will increase as a sanctuary for the stranger, a house of welcome and comfort for the poor, a consolation to the distressed and a witness of salvation for the sinner. Guide us as a light for our youth, a consolation in old age, a place of reconciliation in the midst of brokenness, a growing place for all.

You are our refuge and our fortress, our God, in whom we trust.

Stir us, O God, in our growing conviction and commitment to your call. Manifest and animate your sacred and holy plans through our gifts and pledges of money alongside our prayers, presence, service and witness, which we make today and each day as we our walk with you. Consecrate these commitments as you daily consecrate us to a newness and freshness of life in you.

You are our refuge and our fortress, our God, in whom we trust. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

O Spirit of the Living God (UMH 539)

1-O Spirit of the living God, thou light and fire divine,
descend upon thy church once more, and make it truly thine.
Fill it with love and joy and power, with righteousness and peace;
till Christ shall dwell in human hearts, and sin and sorrow cease.

2-Blow, wind of God! With wisdom blow until our minds are free
from mists of error, clouds of doubt, which blind our eyes to thee.
Burn, winged fire! Inspire our lips with flaming love and zeal,
to preach to all thy great good news, God's glorious common weal.

3-Teach us to utter living words of truth which all may hear,
the language all may understand when love speaks loud and clear;
till every age and race and clime shall blend their creeds in one,
and earth shall form one family by whom thy will is done.

4-So shall we know the power of Christ who came this world to save;
so shall we rise with him to life which soars beyond the grave;
and earth shall win true holiness, which makes thy children whole;
till, perfected by thee, we reach creation's glorious goal!

*Benediction

Sung Benediction	<i>Peace I Leave with You</i>	Choir
Postlude	<i>The Singing Trumpet</i>	Paxton

“Prayer of Consecration,” adapted from [Consecration Sunday liturgy](#) (November 8, 2020), Mountain View Lutheran Church, Edgewood, WA. Lyrics reprinted under CCLI License # 1530449. Livestream under CCLI Streaming License # 20723100. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sun., May 21 Consecration Sunday

9:00 a.m. **Worship in Person and Livestream**
10:30 a.m. **Adult Sunday School**

Tues., May 23 10:30 a.m. **Equity and Justice Team**
5:00 p.m. **Back Row?**

Wed., May 24 3:00 p.m. **Prayer Group**

Sat., May 27 10:30 a.m. **Mission U Meeting Fellowship Hall-Pastor Lee**

Sun., May 28 9:00 a.m. **Worship in Person and Livestream**

Serving us today: Lee Schott, Pastor; Karen Hutzell, Organist; Joyce Templeman, Pianist; Bob Gowdey, Choir Director; Henn Family, Ushers; Jaden Vega and Kim Tyrrell, Nursery Attendants; Marty and Carol Jones, Fellowship; Nathan and Johnathan Henn , Tech Team; Starr Himes, Livestream Greeter.

Valley UMC Garden Group: Heads up! Phil Smith is planning to till the garden space the week of **May 22**. If you have signed up for the Garden Group, please plan to help Phil with spring garden prep that week. A more definite time will be determined closer to that week and after checking the weather forecast. Contact Phil at 515-518-7460 if you have questions.

A Home for your Plastic Bags! We are collecting plastic grocery bags to be made into durable, comfortable, and lightweight bed mats to be distributed by Joppa, an organization that serves over 130 unsheltered individuals in the Des Moines area. It takes 800 bags to make one adult mat so put your empty, clean bags to good use! Place your bags in the container in the fellowship hall. Thanks!

Special Music for Summer: Sign up on the form outside the church office to share special music this summer for worship at Valley UMC. Contact Bob Gowdey if you have any questions.

May Giving Tree: Camp Wesley Woods

West Des Moines Human Services Need of the Month: Soap and Deodorant