



The Feast of the Ascension

Bluegrass Vespers

May 16, 2021 – 4pm

Welcome and Announcements
Bell x 3

OPENING WORDS:

Meagan Crosby-Shearer

Let our prayer be set forth in your sight as incense
The lifting up of our hands the evening sacrifice

Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God,
a new world has broken into ours—
**a world in which justice does come for the poor,
freedom comes for the prisoners,
and healing for the sick.**

Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God,
a new community has been formed—
**a community that loves and cares for all members,
a family that welcomes all who are abandoned and rejected,
a place where all find a place of belonging.**

Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God,
a new creation has begun—
**all that was distorted is being restored,
all that is corrupted is being renewed,
all that was broken is being made whole.**

Because Jesus ascended and draws all creation to the aching heart of God,
God's new world has begun!¹

Light and peace to you in Jesus Christ the risen and ascended one.

¹Litany for Ascension Day Christine Sine [alt]

Sung Procession and Evening Hymn (Phos Hilaron)



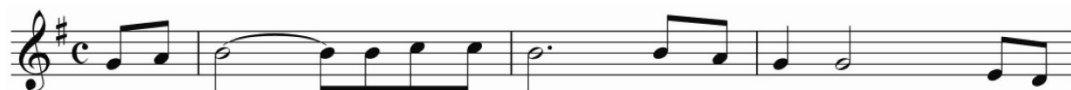
L: Je-sus Christ is the light of the world, The light no dark-ness can ov er come.



Stay with us now for it is e - v'ning **C:** And the day is al-most o - ver.



L: Let your light scat-ter the dark-ness **C:** And shine on us your peo - ple.



C: Joy ous light of glor-ious God, heav-en ly ho - ly Je - sus



Christ, We have come to the set ting of the sun and we



look to the e - v'ning light. We sing to Fa - ther, Son, and



Ho - ly Spi - rit, Our voic-es pure to -



geth-er. O prec-ious God giv - er of life, we sing your



prais - es for - e - ver.

D.C. al fine

Song: Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love – behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bend their burning eyes at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

Public Domain: Text: Godfrey Thring, Matthew Bridges / Composer: George J. Elvey

Song: Jesus Built a Bridge to Heaven

Jesus built a bridge to Heaven.
A mighty, mighty bridge to Heaven.
Jesus built a bridge to Heaven,
With three nails, and two cross-ties.

Took His people by the hand.
Led them 'cross that barren land.
Pharaoh chased them night and day,
But the angel of the Lord kept him away.

A humble carpenter by trade.
You'll know him by the works he made.
No towers of stone, nor works of steel,
But a wooden cross on a wind swept hill.
No boulevard, no avenue.
Not a road by man can carry you.
A highway built by hands unseen,
To that city of gold for eternity.

Duncan / Grant / Rounder Records / CCLI

Poem by our Poet-in-Residence Benjamin Hertwig.

Song: When the Roll is Called up Yonder
When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more,
And the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair;
When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

Refrain: When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

On that bright and cloudless morning when the dead in Christ shall rise,
And the glory of his resurrection share;
When his chosen ones shall gather to their home beyond the skies,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there. *Refrain.*

Let us labor for the Master from the dawn till setting sun;
Let us talk of all his wondrous love and care.
Then when all of life is over and our work on earth is done,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there. *Refrain.*

James Milton Black / 1893 / Public Domain

Psalm 93:

read by Chivonne Graff

The Lord is king; he has put on splendid apparel;
the Lord has put on his apparel and girded himself with strength.
He has made the whole world so sure that it cannot be moved;
Ever since the world began, your throne has been established;
you are from everlasting.

The waters have lifted up, O Lord, the waters have lifted up their voice;
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.
Mightier than the sound of many waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea,
mightier is the Lord who dwells on high.
Your testimonies are very sure, and holiness adorns your house,
O Lord, for ever and for evermore.

Song: Psalm 36

CHORUS

C: Your love reaches to heaven, Your truth beyond our

5 *Fine*

minds, Your justice like a mountain our shadowed valley finds. *(to verses)*

10 **VERSE ONE**

Protect us Lord with precious love and grant us light to

14

see the feast with which you give to us, the

17 *D.C.*

water of eternity. *(to chorus)*

19 **VERSE TWO**

Keep loving us who know you, Let the

22

proud not crush our hearts, nor the wicked bend and

25 *D.C. al Fine*

break us, For with you all justice starts. *(to chorus)*

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

read by Catherine Pate

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After 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. While 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; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But 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." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They 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 the Lord...

Sermon:

Rev. Aaron Miller

(<https://www.foxesandfowl.ca/> <https://uhillcongregation.squarespace.com/>)

Song: Hard Times

Let us pause in life's pleasures and count it's many tears,
while we all sup sorrow with the poor
There's a song that will linger forever in our ears;
Oh, hard times come again no more.

Chorus: Tis the song, the sigh of the weary,
hard times, hard times, come again no more
Many days you have lingered around my cabin door;
Oh, hard times come again no more.

While we seek mirth and beauty and music light and gay,
here are frail forms fainting at the door
Though their voices are silent, their pleading looks will say;
Oh, hard times come again no more. *Chorus*

Tis a sigh that is wafted across the troubled wave,
tis a wail that is heard upon the shore
Tis a dirge that is murmured around the lowly grave;
Oh, hard times come again no more. *Chorus.*

Stephen Foster 1854 / Parlour Song / Public Domain.

Sung Creed:



© We be-lieve in one God, Cre - a - tor, Mak-er of all that is seen and un-seen.



You are with us al-ways, to the end of the age, God who was and is and is yet to be.



We be-lieve in one Re-deem-er, Je-sus Christ, God from God and light from light.



You car-ry us a-long as dis - ci-ples, we are al-ways in your - sight.



You suf - fered and died for all of sin, to bring us close to our lov-ing God.



Through death in bod-y, made a - live in the Spir-it, in glo-ry your king-dom will not end.



I be-lieve in the Ho-ly Spir-it, gi-ver of life, God who was and is and is to come,



wa - ter of life and wind that blows, Cre - a - tor, Re-deem-er, Ho - ly One.



A - - - men, A - men, A - men, A - - - - men.

Song: Prayers of the People



L: In peace let us pray to the Lord. **C:** Let us pray to the Lord.



L: For peace from above and for our sal va-tion.



L: For peace in the whole world and the uni-ty of all na tions.



L: For all of God's chil-dren who ga ther to-geth er in prayer.



L: For those who strengthen oth ers, that they might find strength.



L: For those who work for peace and un - der-stand-ing.



L: For a-bun-dance and good wea-ther, qui-et, and cel e-bra-tion.



L: For de-liv er-ance from af flic tion, an-ger, dan-ger, and need.



L: For those who came be fore us, and are now at rest.

Descant: Help save us com - fort and de - fend us.

C: * Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
Add descant 2nd time through

⁵ Help save us gra - cious Lord.
 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

Collect (*collecting prayer*)

Creator God, source of wisdom and wonder, wrap us in the blanket of your love, and give us the strength and courage to carry on with our journey. May we follow Jesus into the new creation, and await with joy the coming of the Spirit. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Feel free to speak in a language, translation or paraphrase

Blessing

In the leaving
 in the letting go
 let there be this
 to hold onto
 at the last:

the enduring of love
 the persisting of hope
 the remembering of joy

the offering of gratitude
 the receiving of grace
 the blessing of peace.—Jan Richardson

Go in peace, with the hope, courage and love of God.

Thanks be to God. Amen. Alleluia!

Closing Gospel Medley: Will the Circle / I'll Fly Away / Higher Ground

Will The Circle Be Unbroken

I was standing by my window
On a cold and cloudy day
When I saw the hearse come rolling
For to carry my mother away.

*refrain: Will the circle be unbroken?
By and by Lord, by and by
There's a better home awaiting
In the sky Lord, in the sky.*

Well, I went back home, home was lonely
For my mother she was gone
And all my family there was cryin'
For our home felt sad and alone. *refrain*

Undertaker, undertaker
Undertaker please drive slow
For that body you are haulin'
Lord, I hate to see her go. *refrain*
The Carter Family . Traditional

I'll Fly Away

Some glad morning when this life is over, I'll fly away
To a home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away

*Refrain: I'll fly away, oh glory, I'll fly away
When I die, hallelujah by and by, I'll fly away*

When the shadows of this life have grown, I'll fly away
Like a bird from prison bars has flown, I'll fly away. *Refrain*

Just a few more weary days and then I'll fly away
To a land where joy will never end, I'll fly away! *Refrain.*

1929 Alfred E. Brumley. Public Domain

Higher Ground

I'm pressing on the upward way
New heights I'm gaining everyday
Still praying as I onward bound
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

Refrain: Lord, lift me up and let me stand
By faith on heaven's table land
A higher plane than I have found
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay
Tho' some may dwell where these abound
My prayer, my aim is higher ground. *Refrain*

I want to scale the utmost height
And catch a gleam of glory bright
But still I'll pray till heaven I've found
Lord, lead me on to higher ground. *Refrain*

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