

# Ascension Sunday

May 21, 2023 + 4pm

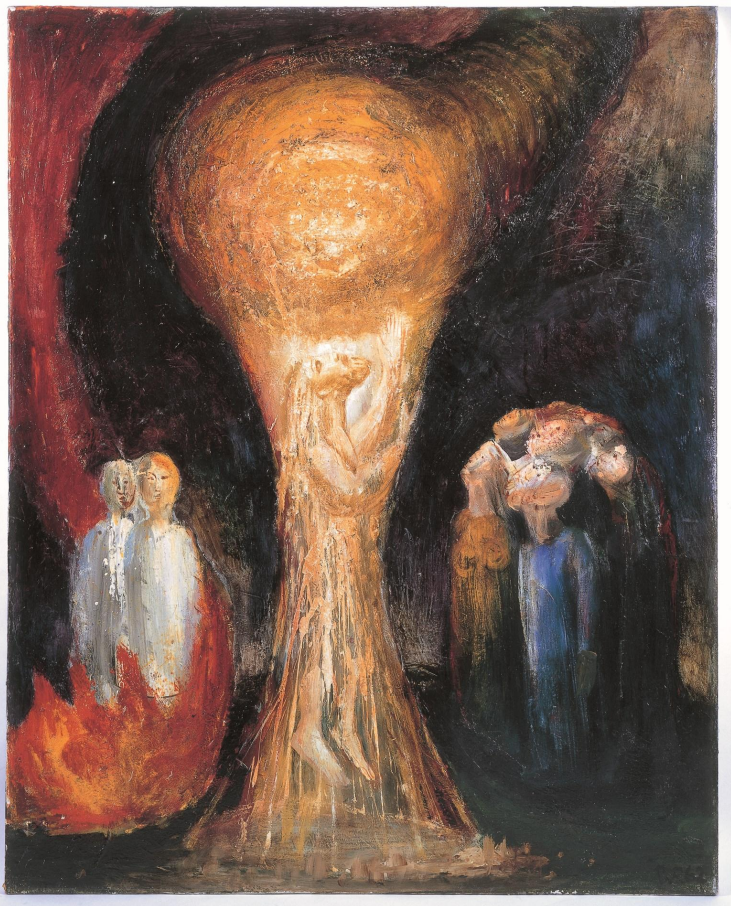


Image: "The Ascension" by Peter Rogers, (1928-)  
Methodist Modern Art Collection



*Beloved companions on the Way  
Come as you are offering our lives  
in the beautiful struggle of resurrection hope...*

## **Welcome to the AbbeyChurch**

No matter who you are or what you are carrying today, know you are beloved and so very welcome here!

At the AbbeyChurch, we tell stories of faith, encourage hope, share meals, care for each other and for God's creation – and strive to practice the teachings of Jesus.

We're at different places in our faith journey - but we share a guiding sacred Story as found in scripture (The Bible) and summarized in our Christian creeds.

We share a willingness to honestly wrestle with God - with our questions and doubts, our disillusionment with our institutions and our concern for our world.

We invite diversity in our community and our leadership; old, young, rich, poor, conservative, liberal, radical, single, married, LGBTQ2IA+, straight, evangelical, progressive, overeducated, undereducated, overhoused, underhoused, certain, doubting, hurting, thriving (to name a few).

We believe that Christ's love binds our differences together and renews our hope as we gather each week at Jesus' table of radical welcome.

# We Gather

**Opening Loop / Tolling of the Bells**

**Announcements**

**Land Acknowledgment**

Chivonne Graff

## **Gathering Words**

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 and shares all  
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 disrupted is being restored,  
all that is collapsed is being renewed,  
all that was broken is being made whole.**

Because Jesus ascended and draws all of creation  
into the aching heart of God

**God's new world has begun!** Litany for Ascension Day Christine Sine [alt]

## **Opening 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 peace, whose power a scepter sways  
From pole to pole that wars may cease absorbed in prayer & praise  
His reign shall know no end and round His pierced feet  
Fair flowers of glory now extend their fragrance ever sweet.

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

**Poem: Ascension Day** by Malcolm Guite

Selected and read by poet-in-residence **Rebecca Yeo**

## **We Proclaim**

### **The Story of the Beloved Community**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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. **Thanks be to God.**

*You are invited to rise in body or in spirit  
as we prepare our hearts to hear the Gospel.*

## **Gospel Acclamation: You're Alive**

All creation sings your praise - all creation rejoices  
We join into creation's song! We join in with our voices!  
With the salmon we jump - Our God lives  
With the eagle we soar - You rose again!  
With every tribe every tongue - You conquered death!  
With heaven and earth - You're alive!

Alleluia - allelu! Alleluia "You're alive!"

Charlie Buhler / Grandview Church Vancouver

## **The Gospel**

Let us proclaim the gospel from the rooftops!

**With our words and with our lives!**

A reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke  
Jesus said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God

....Let us proclaim the gospel from the rooftops!

**With our words and with our lives!**

## **Gospel Acclamation: You're Alive**

Alleluia - allelu! Alleluia, "You're alive!"

Charlie Buhler, alt. / Grandview Church Vancouver

**Sermon**

**Rebecca Yeo**

*Silence for meditation. Bell / Silence / Bell*

*You are invited to rise in body or in spirit as we affirm our faith*

## **Credo**

I believe in God, the maker almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heav'n,  
and is seated at the right hand of the maker.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy cath'lic church,  
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting! A-----men.  
Ryan Flanigan/ Liturgical folk/ CCLI

## **Our Prayers**

### **Confession**

Together, we bring our confession before God, saying together:  
**Lord Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and ascended for us: we have not loved you as our Redeemer; we have not brought our prayers to you, or heeded your tears shed over the world, or cared for each other or your creation. Forgive us, we pray; breathe into us a new spirit of giving and holding together, and make us joyfully obedient to your vision of the kin-dom: for your glory's sake. Amen.**

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), alt.:

### **Absolution / Assurance**

### **The Peace**

...The peace of the Ascended Christ be with you!

**And also with you!**

*We acknowledge the peace of Christ in each other.*

*During this next 'offertory' song, the table is set. Contributions to our common life can be placed in the record player in the back of the space.*

*Cheques made out to 'The Emmaus Community'.*

*Charitable receipts will be issued if you provide your address.*

## **Offertory: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing**

A hymn of glory let us sing

new songs throughout the world shall ring! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ, by a road before untrod ascends unto the throne of God.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

“You see him now, ascending high up to the portals of the sky.”  
Alleluia! Alleluia! “Here after Jesus you shall see  
returning in great majesty.”

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O risen Christ, ascended Lord; all praise to you let earth accord  
Alleluia! Alleluia! You are while endless ages run  
with Source & with the Spirit one!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Venerable Bede 5<sup>th</sup> century / tran. Webb. Public Domain

## **We Celebrate**

### **Invitation To the Table / Prayer Over The Gifts**

Eternal God, our Saviour Jesus Christ has promised to be with us until the end of time. Accept all we offer you this day, and renew us in Christ's transfigured life; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion / The Holy Eucharist**

The Lord be with you! **And also with you**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

And now we give you thanks because, after his most glorious resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us to enter into holy union with God.

Therefore with angels and archangels and the company of heaven and all of your creation we sing:

**Holy holy holy Lord God of power and might**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory**

**Hosanna in the highest +Blessed is the One who comes**

**in the name of the Lord. Hosanna is the highest.**

While Jesus was eating with his disciples, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, broke it, gave it to them, and said: "Take, this is my body. Do this in remembrance of me.

**Glory to you forever and ever.**

As supper was ending, Jesus took the wine and after blessing it, poured it, gave it to them and said, take, this is my blood, do this in remembrance of me.

**Glory to you forever and ever.**

Holy God we give you thanks for the mystery of faith given to us in Jesus your Child:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

+Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that with burning hearts, we may be a people of hope, justice, and love. As grain was scattered across this land then gathered and made one in this bread, so may your church, scattered to the ends of the earth, be gathered and made one in your love. **Amen**

As beloved children of a loving parent we pray as Jesus taught:  
*said in a language, translation or paraphrase of your choice*

**Our \*Father (\*or Parent, or Source) in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

*Silence.*

These are the gifts of God for the people of God given for the life of the world.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**



*All are welcome to receive at Jesus' table! The bread is gluten-free but contains almond flour and dairy. Juice is in the small cups. Wine is in the common cup. Please do not dip bread.*

**Agnus Dei: Lamb of God** by Tom Wuest

*(pre-recorded, excerpt)* Brass Trumpet Publishing

**Communion Song: Underneath the Shadow of Your Wings**

Underneath the shadow of your wings

We dwell underneath the shadow of your wings *(repeat)*

Hidden close to thee. We find rest.

Tom Wuest. Brass Trumpet Publishing

**Communion Song: Alleluia Sing to Jesus**

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne.

Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood;

"Jesus out of ev'ry nation has redeemed us by His blood.

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now.

Alleluia! He is near us; faith believes, nor questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received Him

when the forty days were o'er

shall our hearts forget His promise, "I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia! Bread of heaven, Here on earth our food, our stay.

Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to You from day to day.

Intercessor, Friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, hear our plea

where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;

Alleluia! born of Mary, earth your footstool, heaven your throne:

As within the veil you entered robed in flesh our great high priest

here on earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.

*(repeat verse one if needed)*

W.C. Dix/Hyfrydol tune 1888. Public Domain

# We Are Sent

## Prayer after Communion

God of love, in this thanksgiving feast we have tasted your truth and shared in your life. May we always walk in your way, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

## The Blessing

### Closing Medley: I'll Fly Away / Up Above My Head

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

Up above my head (Up above my head)  
I hear music in the air (I hear music in the air)  
Up above my head (Up above my head)  
I hear music in the air (I hear music in the air)  
Up above my head (Up above my head)  
I hear music in the air (I hear music in the air)  
And I really do believe (Yeah) I really do believe  
There's a Heaven somewhere (There's a Heaven somewhere)

African-American Spiritual / Sr. Rosetta Tharpe / Public domain.

## The Sending

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## Closing Loop



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We would love to connect! Call, Text, Email.

