The Seventh Sunday after Easter The Ascension of Jesus June 1, 2025

Gathering Music "Now the Green Blade Rises" (VU # 186

Welcome

Light the Christ Candle

With thankful hearts, we gather here where the doors are wide open to all. As we are to walk always in the light of Christ, may we keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts and shine today and always. Amen.

Announcements



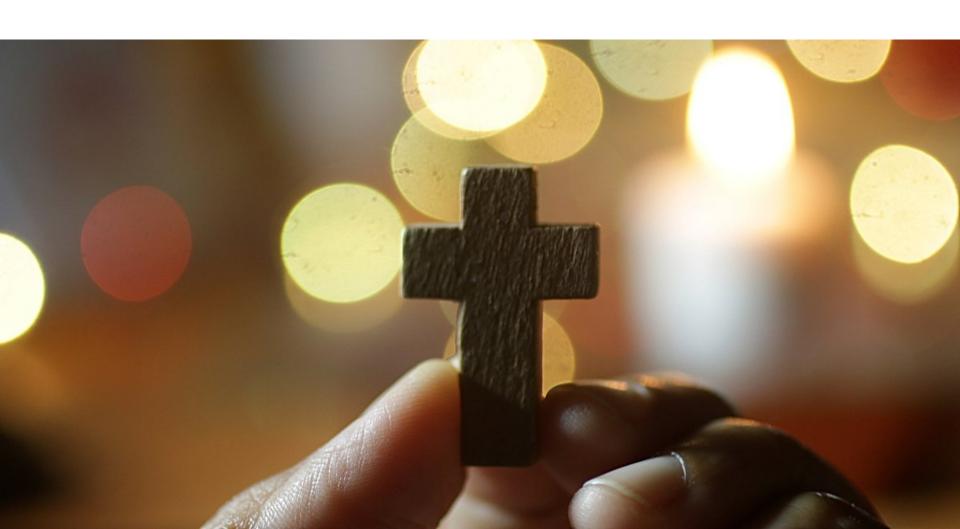
Announcements / Happy Birthday

- Happy Birthday, Happy Birthday
- We Love You
- Happy Birthday and may all your dreams come true
- When you blow out your candles,
- One remains aglow
- Its the love-light in your eyes
- Where e'er you go
- (Repeat)



Prelude

"Jesus Shall Reign"



Call to Worship and Prayer

People of God, open our minds and our hearts. Come, let us worship God.

The heavens proclaim your glory, O God.

May our voices do that, too. The mountains melt like wax before you, O God. May hardened hearts do so, too.

May we gather as your community, sculpted by the freedom of love and in the liberty of grace, that all may gather here and be given voice to proclaim you God of all the Earth, and give thanks to your holy name. Amen.

Hymn VU # 334

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

- All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall; bring forth the royal diadem,
- Refrain and crown him, crown him, crown him, crown him Lord of all.
- O seed of Israel's chosen race now ransomed from the Fall, hail him who saves you by his Grace R

- 3 Crown him, you martyrs of your God, who from his altar call; praise him whose way of pain you trod,
- Refrain and crown him, crown him, crown him, crown him Lord of all.
- Let every tongue and every tribe, responsive to the call, to him all majesty ascribe *R*
- O that, with all the sacred throng, we at his feet may fall, join in the everlasting song, **R**

Prayer of Confession

Ascended Jesus, we pray for those imprisoned in a silence not of their own, where a world has decided to take their voice and replace it with a deeper silence made of prejudice, and fear, and power.

May you hear us as we confess the times we have ignored another's need, leaving them without a voice to cry for justice, to cry for peace, to cry for truth. May we confess the times we have not been your disciples in seeking peace, and inclusion, and freedom.

(Silent moment)

Words of Assurance

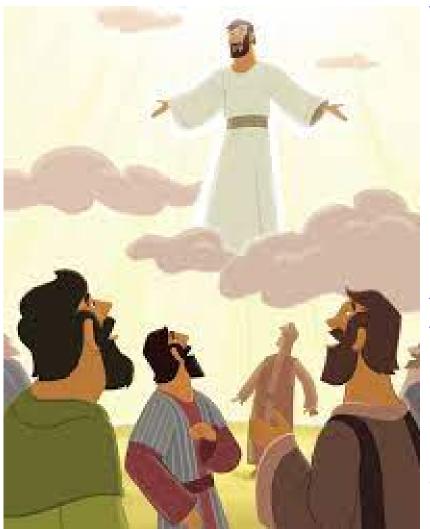
We come into God's Presence with nothing but ourselves and our attempts to follow Jesus in imperfect ways. Our Gracious God takes what we offer and fills our emptiness with Christ's redeeming Power.



Thanks be to God for this good News. Live in the Peace of Christ. Amen.

Time with the Young People by Yun-Hee

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rlcZ8oOa JA8



Children Song

"Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelujah"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuODF9Kbgn
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(The children may now proceed with their guardians to have sharing time.)

The Scriptures

read by Dennis

First Reading

Acts 1:6-11

Then the [disciples] gathered around [Jesus] and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into Heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into Heaven."

Luke 24:44-53

Second Reading

[Jesus] said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead

on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of

at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning

I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into Heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the Temple, praising God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. We give thanks for inspiration.



Message

by Rev. Yun-Hee



Give thanks for life, the measure of our days, mortal, we pass through beauty that decays, yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise, Hallelujah, hallelujah!

2

Give thanks for those who made their life a light caught from the Christ-flame, bursting through the night, who touched the truth, who burned for what is right,

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

- And for our own, our living and our dead, thanks for the love by which our life is fed, a love not changed by time or death or dread, Hallelujah, hallelujah!
- Give thanks for hope, that like the wheat, the grain lying in darkness does its life retain in resurrection to grow green again, Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Prayers of the People

God of freedom and life, we pray for those who are bound in a fear of others, who live through prejudice, who seek to dominate others they do not understand because of ethnicity and language, gender and sexuality, age and politics. Hear us as we pray for a community that breaks prejudices and lives in diversity.

God of freedom and life, we pray for those who are trapped in conflict of a violence that is not their own doing, of neighbourhoods and nations who seek conflict before they seek peace. Hear us as we pray for all those trapped in violence.

God of freedom and life, we pray for those who are caught up in pain, who are trapped in the suffering of illness or anxiety, who seek freedom through a peace of mind, and a life supported and encouraged by others. In particular, deepen our trust in your sovereignty over all that is as we lift to you our cries with the people of Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Gaza, and the Sudan. Hear us as we pray for a healing that comes in freedom from despair, loneliness and worry.

God of freedom and life, we pray for those who are snared in abuse, in unhealthy and unloving relationships, those trafficked and abused by others, where their worth and value seem to belong to others. Hear us as we pray for those enslaved in difficult relationships.

God of freedom and life, we pray for all people whose living is not the fullness you long for, who are held back by another's power. We pray also for those people whose lives are in danger, especially from the power of the wildfires. Hear us as we pray for all those bound up in life. **Amen.**

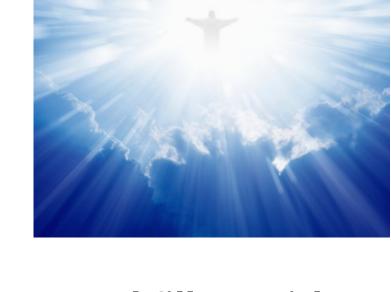
The Lord's Prayer VU # 960

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,

Musical Offering HYMN VU # 540
Grant us, God, the grace of giving, with a spirit large and free, that ourselves and all our living we may offer faithfully.

Offering Prayer



Offering Prayer

Amen

Welcoming God, receive our hearts and fill us with your Spirit that we may be able to offer ourselves in service to you. May you strengthen us when our resolve weakens and we put ourselves first; awaken us as a congregation to recognise the need around us; make us a community of love and service, joining with the efforts and energy of all those who strive to make your children and planet whole.

Hymn VU # 213 "Rejoice the Lord is King"

- Rejoice the Lord is King!
 Your risen Lord adore!
 Rejoice, give thanks and sing and triumph evermore.
 - R Lift up your heart, lift up your voice: rejoice; again I say, rejoice!
 - 2 Jesus the Saviour reigns, the God of truth and love; when he had purged our sins, he took his seat above. R

God's kingdom cannot fail; Christ rules o'er Earth and Heaven; the keys of Death and Hell are to our Jesus given.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice: rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

4 Rejoice in glorious hope, for Christ, the judge, shall come to glorify the saints for their eternal home.

We soon shall hear the archangel's voice; the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!



Blessing

We entered worship, aware of the light of God that shines through the life of Jesus the Christ.

And now we depart, carrying that light of truth into the world, to share and to inspire.

We are a people eager to make a difference in the world wherever we go. Through the way we live, we proclaim our thanks to God, who gives us new life.

Amen.



Commissioning "Go Now in Peace"

Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true.

Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there within, around, above. Go now in peace, in faith and in love. Amen, amen, amen.



Thank God for being with us!

Thank you for Worshipping together today & for Participating in the Service!

(adapted from the United Church of Canada's Resources, 'Gathering' and "Seasons of the Spirit – Seasons Fusion". Images from the public domain)

{ A short devotional Time }

God isn't only the Creator (Genesis 1:1); He's also creative. He enjoys making different types of plants and animals and stars. If God cared only about giving us food, He could have made just one kind of seed – bearing plant. But God is extravagant and never does things in half measures.

God's abundance isn't limited to His Creation. He's also generous with His Grace. As Paul said, "The Grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 1:14). As with God's Creation, His Grace is more than we need and offered with us in mind.

~ from "Our Daily Bread" by Matt Lucas on May 18