



*Blessed are those who delight in God's Law.
They are like well watered trees, whose leaves do not fail,
and who bear abundant fruit in season.
Psalm 1(Paraphrase by Pastor Dave)*



Hyattstown-Clarksburg United Methodist Parish
Pastor: Dave Hodsdon , revdwhodsdon@verizon.net
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPzJQEvd60apduOgx0Jm3Q>

Clarksburg United Methodist Church
<https://www.facebook.com/clarksburgmdumc/>
<https://clarksburgmdumc.org/>
23425 Spire St., Clarksburg, Maryland
CUMC Accompanist: Rick Beede
CUMC Choir Director: Cathy Warfield

Hyattstown United Methodist Church
<https://www.facebook.com/Hyattstown-United-Methodist-Church-146846181999711/>
26121 Frederick Rd, Clarksburg, Maryland
HUMC Accompanist: Tim Bossler

On YouTube this Week

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLY5iZ1NS28HTiZRfityrzqqmMD8rlcivF1>

Sunday Worship 1 - Prayers and Praise - 9:00 am

Sunday Worship 2 - Responding to the Word - 9:30 am

Also Links to "Anthem" selection suggestion from Cathy.



All Previous Videos remain available for viewing.

ORDER OF WORSHIP I
7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ASCENSION SUNDAY

9:00AM
MAY 16, 2021

PRELUDE

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing
Rick-Hymnal 318a-no lyrics.mp4

Author: The Venerable Bede
Translator: Elizabeth Rundle Charles (1858)

**1 A hymn of glory let us sing, new hymns throughout the world shall ring;
By a new way none ever trod Christ shares once more the throne of God.**

**2 You are a present joy, O Christ, triumphant love once sacrificed,
And great the light in you we see to guide us to eternity.**

**3 O risen Christ, ascended now, to your blessed name all knees shall bow;
You are, while endless ages run, in Triune Godhead ever One.**

ASCENSION DAY PRAYER

He was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes
Acts 1.9

**God raised Christ from the dead
and seated Christ at God's right hand in the heavenly places.
The mystery of God's will... is to gather up all things in Christ.**

Ephesians 1.20, 10

**Christ, risen and ascended,
you are no longer one person, but the whole.
Christ, you are raised bodily,
and your Body now is us,
and all Creation.**

**Loving One, may I live this day
as your body, your flesh and blood.
As the only purpose of my hand
is to be my hand, to move as I will,
so my only purpose today
is to be your hand, your eyes,
to touch and to bless,
to create and to heal, as you will,
as your Spirit moves me,
one with my whole Body,
gathered in your grace,
the flesh of Christ,
the flesh of Creation,
the body of your love.**

WELCOME

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 47

- ⁵ God has gone up with a shout,
Yahweh with the sound of a trumpet.
⁶ Sing praises to God! Sing praises!
Sing praises to our King! Sing praises!
⁷ For God is the King of all the earth.
Sing praises with understanding.
⁸ God reigns over the nations.
God sits on his holy throne.

*Dear God, fill us with grateful hearts
that want to celebrate! Amen.*

HYMN

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above
Rick-Hymnal 126-20Nov19.mp4

126

SCRIPTURE

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

(WEB)

... made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule, authority, power, dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in that which is to come. ²² He put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things for the assembly, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

PRAYER

BCP

**Almighty God, whose blessed Son
our Savior Jesus Christ
ascended far above all heavens
that he might fill all things:
Mercifully give us faith to perceive that,
according to his promise,
he abides with his Church on earth,
even to the end of the ages;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

*by Thom Shuman,
and posted on his Lectionary Liturgies blog: <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>.
Reposted: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/04/confession-easter-7-b.html>.*

*Called to proclaim repentance,
we are reluctant to look at our own failings.
Invited to witness to God's loving forgiveness of sins,
we would rather not speak aloud of our own.
Let us trust in the One who offers us hope and healing,
as we pray together, saying,*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Carol J Gallagher

Loving and gracious Creator
you promise to be with us
giving us your strength here
and your presence forever.
We have doubted in our pain
we have not loved very well
yet in every generation you give
the power to love and to teach.
Your frightened disciples watched
as you left them on their own
yet you never abandoned them
and you never abandon us now.
Bless us in these times with strength
shower us with compassion to share
give us the patience to love this present
trusting you are with us in every breath. Amen

SILENCE IS KEPT

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

by Thom Shuman (op cit)

*Choosing to set aside judgment, God gives us justice;
choosing to let go of punishment, God fills us with peace;
choosing to release anger, God's steadfast love rests upon us.*

**Forgiven, redeemed, restored— we will tell everyone,
through the lives we lead, what God has done for us.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

HYMN

Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above

96

Use Ellacombe (alt tune, 547etc)

Rick-Hymnal 092-6v-lyrics.mkv

INTERCESSIONS

Author: Rachael Keefe

- Posted: May 14, 2021, RevGalBlogPals

*Holy One, in this moment we remember that
you are the God of all our days*

– lamenting or rejoicing days,
working or leisure days,
busy or relaxing days,
cold or warm days,
sick or healthy days
– you are with us through it all.

*You have witnessed every human breath,
all the while delighting in our joys
and yearning for us to turn to you in our wanderings.*

*Remind us in this moment –
no matter what is happening or not
– you are with us, claiming us as your own beloved.
There is nothing we can do or leave undone
that will change or remove your love for us.*

**May we breathe a little more deeply,
trusting in your presence.**

*In these anxious days
in which so many want to act as if pandemic is over,
keep us mindful of our neighbor's needs,
no matter what our governments might say.*

**As your Body,
we are to care for the most vulnerable among us.**

*As restrictions lift in many cities, states,
and countries around the world,*

**help us to remember
children under 12 who cannot be vaccinated,
people with immunocompromise,
those who cannot be vaccinated,
and those for whom the vaccine doesn't work...**

**We are one in you.
Keep us patient, and loving of our neighbors
until it is safe for all.**

*While we are concerned for those near to us,
we also pray for people in India
and other parts of the world
who are overcome with COVID.*

**Move our world leaders
to manage vaccine distribution
and that of other needful resources
with equity and justice in mind.**

*Holy One who is present in all our moments,
we lift up to you all the broken places in our lives
and in our world
and pray for healing, for wholeness.*

**May today be the day we move
a little closer to your vision
for the unity of Creation.**

<silent prayers>

*We pray in gratitude and praise
for the power of your Love.*

faithandworship.com

**Gracious God, sometimes it is not easy to be joyful
sometimes days are cloudy and the sun is never seen,
sometimes circumstances close doors we try to open
sometimes life conspires to may this journey hard.
But deep inside we know you are with us
every day, every step along the road
and so we thank you for all you have
and all you will accomplish in these lives
and we lift our hearts and voices once again in worship.**

PRAYER*(for Ascension Day / Ascension Sunday, May 13, 2021),**by Leslie Scoopmire*

Blessed Jesus, we praise you
 and lift our hearts to be filled by your Spirit.
 May we be ever-joyful witnesses of your truth
 and embody your wisdom and healing in the world always.
 May we know you as our companion, our brother, our teacher, our guide,
 our Savior who dwells in us, and we in you.
 You draw our eyes heavenward
 to call our hearts into assurance,
 knowing you are never far from us.
 Draw our hearts instead toward each other:
 let salvation reach to the ends of the earth
 and to the full blooming of our lives in Christ.
 May we work with You, O Loving Creator,
 enlightened by your Holy Spirit,
 to share the good news of renewal and hope.
 Holy One of Blessing, God of Mercy and Faithfulness,
 sustain us by your grace
 and grant strength & grace to all those in anxiety or pain,
 we humbly pray, resting in the assurance of your care.
 Peace be upon us, and upon all for whom we pray. Amen.

HYMN*Rejoice, the Lord Is King (Darwall's 148th)**Rick-Hymnal 715 -Lyrics-4v.mp4***715****CLOSING COMMISSION AND PRAYER***Church of Scotland*

*May God bless us with wonder at creation's glory.
 May God bless us with fury at creation's spoiling.
 May God bless us with courage at this critical hour.
 And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 Rest upon us and on all creation,
 This day and for the future to come. Amen.*

*May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
 wherever He may send you.
 May He guide you through the wilderness,
 protect you through the storm.*

**May God bring us home rejoicing
 at the wonders God has shown us.
 May God bring us home rejoicing
 once again into our doors.**

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
 and of the Holy Spirit. Amen*

INTERLUDE*Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation**EPHESIANS 1:15-23**Rick-Hymnal 559alt-no lyrics.mp4***559*****Cathy's Anthem Note***

Dear Church Family, The anthem I have chosen for this week, "Majesty, Worship His Majesty" has only one verse, but each word is powerful in honoring our Lord Jesus. As we have celebrated Easter, we live each day celebrating our "Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all Kings." We worship and "lift up on high the name of Jesus." Alleluia, Amen! Blessings to you always, Cathy and Clark

PRELUDE

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
<http://www.gbod3.org/sorter/audio/2182.mp3>

Isaac Watts (1719)

*1 My Shepherd will supply my need; most holy is your name.
In pastures fresh you make me feed, beside the living stream.
You bring my wand'ring spirit back, when I forsake your ways,
and lead me for your mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.*

*2 When I walk through the shades of death, your presence is my stay.
One word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread.
My cup with blessings overflows, your oil anoints my head.*

*3. The sure provisions of my God Attend me all my days:
O may thy house be mine abode, And all my work be praise!
There would I find a settled rest, While others go and come;
No more a stranger or a guest, But like a child at home.*

OPENING WORDS

Litany for Ascension Day ~ written by Christine Sine,
<http://godspace-msa.com/2014/05/13/ascension-day-what-is-it-all-about/>

**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 sits at the right hand of God,
God's new world has begun.**

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ps. 1:1-3

**Happy are those who do not ridicule and scoff
but who delight in God's teachings
and meditate on them day and night.
They are like trees planted by streams of water.
They yield fruit in due season,
and their leaves do not wither.**

HYMN

Ephesians 1:15-23

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Rick-Hymnal 454-lyrics 3v-1080.mp4

454

SCRIPTURE

Acts 1:1-11

(WEB)

⁴ Being assembled together with them, he commanded them, "Don't depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which you heard from me. ⁵ For John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit not many days from now."... "It isn't for you to know times or seasons which the Father has set within his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. You will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth."

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:44-53

*⁴⁹ Behold, I send out the promise of my Father on you.
But wait in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high."*

PRAYER

Northumbria Community, Celtic Daily Prayer

**Lord I will trust you
Help me to journey beyond the familiar
And into the unknown.
Give me the faith to leave the old ways
And break new ground with You.**

**Christ of the mysteries, can I trust You
To be stronger than each storm in me?
I will trust in the darkness and know
That my times are still in your hand.
I will believe you for my future
Chapter by chapter until the story is written.
Strengthen me with Your blessing
And appoint me to the task.
Teach me to live with eternity in view.
Tune my spirit to the music in heaven.
Feed me,
And, somehow,
Make my obedience count for You. Amen.**

SERMON

*Lord God, we are still looking up,
wishing you were right here beside us.*

*Your presence gives us strength, assurance and peace.
When the world feels chaotic and
the storms of life threaten to overtake our small boats,
you are the one who calms the waves and the wind.
No wonder we look up and yearn for your earthly return.*

*Help us to heed the divine words
that tell us to stop looking up and wishing
and start looking out and witnessing.*

*Living Lord, you promised not to abandon us.
You promised us your power.
You promised us the Spirit who comes alongside,
goes out ahead, blows where it wills,
and gives us the words and will to speak.
Even now you pray for us.*

*As our eyes adjust to the people and places
right in front of us,
grant us courage to go to the ends of the earth,
as your witnesses, sharing Good News,
showing God's love,
making known your presence
to those who have not yet met you,
those who long have known you,
and all who need to be reminded that
your return to heaven does not diminish
your care for us still on earth. Amen.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from Christine Sine)

<https://godspacelight.com/2009/05/21/another-prayer-for-ascension-pentecost/>

**God whose glory fills our world
God whose life is closer than breath
God whose love is stronger than death
God, this God of life and love**

**Has sent an advocate to save us
Jesus Christ the righteous, now at the right hand of God**

**Not to condemn but to bring full life
Not to accuse but to redeem
Not to reject but to draw close
God, this God of life and love**

**Has sent an advocate to save us
Jesus Christ the righteous, now at the right hand of God**

**God who hears the cry of our seeking souls
God who sees the pain of our suffering bodies
God who feels the loss of our grieving spirits
God, this God of life and love**

**Has sent an advocate to be with us forever
The Spirit of truth abides with us eternally**

Before us to teach and lead,
Within us to comfort and heal,
Around us to shield and protect,
God, this God of life and love

Has sent an advocate to be with us forever
The Spirit of truth abides with us eternally

God whose dream brings hope and wholeness
God whose ways bring abundance and peace
God whose new world is breaking into ours
God, this God of life and love

Has made his dwelling place with men and women
God the Almighty welcomes us into a resurrection created world

Together with sisters and brothers of every nation
Together with saints from every age
Together with those who follow in our footsteps
God, this God of life and love

Has made his dwelling place with men and women
God the Almighty welcomes us into a resurrection created world

HYMN

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies
Rick-Hymnal 173-20Jul19.mp4

173

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Matt Rich, (alt)
pastor of Unity Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill, South Carolina,
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***As God's blessings shower upon us, we respond to God's amazing grace
with our hands, our feet, our hearts, our prayers and our tithes and offerings.
Let us bring our gifts, today and each day in gratitude and praise.***

PRAYER

(John 17:6-19)

GBoD

Loving God of both comfort and challenge;
we have been blessed to know the feeling
of being surrounded in your loving arms like a child.
Yet we also know that is not a place we can stay.
You send us to be part of the world
– with all its ugliness, anger, hate, deceit, and betrayals
– but not of the world.
You call us to give, so that love, compassion, and hope might be set loose.
We are not giving as those who are of the world
– expecting to receive in the transaction.
We give instead out of gratitude for
your loving heart, made known to us in Christ.
Use us in this way, we pray in the blessed name of Christ,
who by your love overcame death.
And who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever.
And as he taught us, so now we pray

The Lord's Prayer
(Traditional: Trespasses Version)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today- Heritage Sunday

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/may-16-7th-sunday-of-easter-ascension-sundayheritage-sunday-next-week-with-no-special-offering>

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY - MAY 30, 2021

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/umcgiving/special-sundays/peace-with-justice-sunday-pastor-and-leader-kit>

CHARGE

Traci Blackmon

**Friends; As we ponder the validity of
the CDC's most recent announcement
while the US remains at a 35% immunization rate
and new cases and deaths,
although significantly decreased, continue.
As we reflect upon the surge of mutations
that has now brought India to a full stop.
Might I suggest the voice of individualism
will tell us to count it a victory if I am ok,
while the voice of Divine would ask:
What about others?
History has proven we don't ever go far
when we go alone. WE are not yet well.**

MAY WE CONTINUE TO PRESS

By Curry F. Butler

A Sending, Inspired by Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

**Let us go out into the world humbled by our call,
Yet bold because of the grace of God.
Let our "yes" be "yes" and our "no" be "no."
And when we miss the mark,
Let us be able to acknowledge our shortcomings
and continue to press.**

BENEDICTION

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Matt Rich, (alt)

pastor of Unity Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill, South Carolina,
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**As these moments of worship conclude,
may our lives of worship and service begin anew.
As Christ prays for you, pray for one another.
As Christ forgives you, forgive one another.
As Christ loves you, love one another.**

**And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us now and forever more. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun
Rick-Hymnal 157 -Lyrics 5v-1080p.mp4

157

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Other: Dean McIntyre, via GBOD: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/piano-accompaniment-recordings>

Reflecting on and Praying with the Lectionary
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LECTIONARY - 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 1:15–17, 21–26
Psalm 1

1 John 5:9–13
John 17:6–19

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

In the first chapter of Acts, when the eleven seek to replace Judas with a new apostle, they ask God to reveal who that should be by casting lots. How do you think God's will is revealed to us today? Is it revealed in more than one way?

MORNING PRAYER:

Holy One, thank you for the ability to begin my day in prayer.
Guide my path today.
No matter what happens, help me to feel that I belong to you,
and bring me home to you at the end of the day. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER:

Loving God, thank you for claiming me as your own.
I have been in the world all day, but I also know that I am in you.
Give me the grace to let go of this day and entrust it to your care.
Be with me as I sleep this night and continue to sanctify me in your embrace. Amen.

LECTIONARY - ASCENSION OF THE LORD (*40th Day after Easter*)

Acts 1:1–11
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1:15–23
Luke 24:44–53

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

The Ascension of Christ to be seated at the right hand of God is a grand liturgical celebration in the life of the church. It marks forty days of celebrating Easter and God's triumph over the powers of oppression, depression, and our fear of death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is one of many images we have for Christ: good shepherd, suffering servant, great physician. How does the image of the ascended Christ affect your understanding of who he is? What are the strengths and weaknesses in this image of Christ for you?

MORNING PRAYER:

Holy One, come into my heart this morning
and give me eyes to see throughout this day
all the ways that you rule.
Put your resurrecting power to work in my life
and empower me to be a witness to Christ,
that my life may be a song of thanksgiving to you. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER:

God, embrace me now at the end of this day.
As in every day, there have been ups and downs,
joys and disappointments.
I thank you for my faith that, above it all, you rule.
I put my trust in you as I give this day, now spent, to you.
Do with it what you will, and send your Holy Spirit
to pull forward threads from today
that you will spin into good things tomorrow.
I pray through Jesus Christ, who reigns with you,
now and forever. Amen.

Give thanks for:

- ✓ *the peoples of these nations and their resilience*
– *the diversity of their cultures, languages, and art,*
- ✓ *the breath-taking beauty of these lands*
– *the mountains in all their grandeur, overflowing rivers and green paddy fields*
- ✓ *all those who work for the churches and their institutions,*
especially in places where natural disasters strike

Pray for:

- ✓ *efforts of governments and others to build up these nations' economies*
- ✓ *those who have lost families and homes in earthquakes and other disasters*
as they struggle to rebuild their lives, homes and infrastructure
- ✓ *those who contribute to religious harmony and advocate*
for the minority voice of Christians, especially amid religious and ethnic tensions
- ✓ *religious and government leaders that they will make it possible*
for all peoples to live in justice with peace and harmony.
- ✓ *these small nations which depend on other countries*
and are often threatened by interests of their bigger neighbours.

Prayers

*(Bangladesh. Dear Life, J. Morley, J. Ward and H. Wild, eds © Christian Aid 1998.
Used with permission)*

O compassionate Lord,
I would prefer power over the storm,
a secure home, a life protected from the winds.
But help me to live with storms,
shelter with friends, see my plans broken but not my life:
rebuilt again and again from the earth.

*(Bangladesh. A Procession of Prayers: Meditations and Prayers from around the World,
comp. John Carden, WCC, and Cassell, London, UK, 1998, p.179)*

O Saviour Christ,
in whose way of life lies the secret of all life, and the hopes of all the people,
we pray for quiet courage to meet this hour.
We did not choose to be born or to live in such an age.
But let its problems challenge us, its discoveries exhilarate us,
its injustice anger us, its possibilities inspire us, and its vigour renew us,
for your Kingdom's sake.

Prayers

© Lyn Jackson, UMN/Nepal

For the Government of Nepal

Since democracy was achieved in Nepal in 1990, the country has suffered from unstable governments and a prolonged violent insurgency. Although peace was negotiated in 2006, successive governments have struggled to provide a new Constitution and governance process.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray for those involved in government in Nepal, from local to national level. We pray for men and women of integrity in government, who will take decisions in the best interests of ALL Nepalis, regardless of caste, religion, gender or ethnicity. We pray for a government of vision, commitment and compassion.

For the Church in Nepal

Nepal's religious tradition is strongly Hindu and Buddhist; Christian and Muslim minorities have in the past suffered restrictions on how they practise their beliefs, and sometimes even persecution and imprisonment. Since 2006, Nepal has been a secular state, and Nepali churches, independent, indigenous and strongly evangelical, have begun to take a stronger role in their communities.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we praise you for the way you have moved in the hearts of Nepali people, and raised up a church filled with love for you, for each other and for its neighbours. We pray for Christians in Nepal, as they seek to serve you in villages and towns across the country. We pray for wisdom, harmony and unity, that the Church in Nepal will shine for you.

For the poor in Nepal

Nepal remains one of the poorest countries in Asia on most indicators. The earthquakes of April-May 2015 have plunged families and communities into even deeper poverty, and placed development gains at risk. Women and girls, people in remote communities, people with disabilities and those suffering from HIV and AIDS are particularly vulnerable. Unemployment is high, sending thousands of Nepalis to work outside the country.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we know your heart is with the poor, so we pray for those in Nepal who struggle against poverty. We pray for those affected by disasters, particularly earthquakes, and those whose livelihoods threatened by the effects of climate change. We pray for those working towards the protection and empowerment of the poor, and for wise, effective government policy.