



May 21, 2023
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Pianist
Sylvia Olewinski (MH)

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Sunday Morning Meditation

At His ascension our Lord entered heaven, and He keeps the door open for humanity to enter.

– Oswald Chambers
The Love of God (2015)

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

May 21, 2023

Mt Hope 8:30am

Greenfield 9:50am

Grace 11:00am

Ascension Sunday / "As We Are One"

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

In this season of thought-provoking and preparation, we come to be renewed and refreshed.

We come to be inspired by the stories of love and joy

We come to listen for words of hope and renewal

We come with open eyes, open mind, and open hearts.

Blessed be our God.

Come let us worship our God-the One who holds all things in store for us in this season of refreshing.

* *Invocation*

Breath of God, renew us in this time of worship. Help us set aside thoughts that trouble us. Help us pause the challenges of the world that taunt us. Pour your spirit within each one of us, that we may be re-spirited in this hour by your power and your grace. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn* "*Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise*"

Mt Hope PH #205

Greenfield NCH #260

Grace TH #175

Prayer for Confession

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love, according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sins! Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from us.

Restore to us the joy of your salvation and uphold us with a willing spirit. Amen.

Words of Assurance

I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. Jesus said, your sins are forgiven. Amen.

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11 NIV

Jesus Taken Up Into Heaven

¹ In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷ He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ 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.”

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “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.”

Psalm Reading

Psalm 47 NIV

- ¹ Clap your hands, all you nations;
shout to God with cries of joy.
- ² For the LORD Most High is awesome,
the great King over all the earth.
- ³ He subdued nations under us,
peoples under our feet.
- ⁴ He chose our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.
- ⁵ God has ascended amid shouts of joy,
the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.
- 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 to him a psalm of praise.
- ⁸ God reigns over the nations;
God is seated on his holy throne.
- ⁹ The nobles of the nations assemble
as the people of the God of Abraham,
for the kings of the earth belong to God;
he is greatly exalted.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 24:44-53 NIV

Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)

TH #497

⁴⁴ He (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.”

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ 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.”

The Ascension of Jesus

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left

them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *Meditation Hymn* "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Mt Hope VH #23

Greenfield CH #21

Grace VH #23

Today's Message

* *The Apostle's Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic/Christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

* *The Lord's Prayer*

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

* *Sung Response*

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

TH # 501

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Statement

Offertory (MH)

* Doxology

TH # 551

* Offertory Prayer

Endless source of life, pour your blessing upon the gifts we bring before you. Bless our giving in your abundance for the restoration of all people. Through our offering, may those who are weary be energized; may those who feel forgotten find a home. With the joy of your grace filling our hearts, we pray. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn*

“Rejoice, The Lord Is King”

Mt Hope VH #45

Greenfield CH #370

Grace VH #45

* *Benediction*

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace, in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen!

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

As We Are One: Service Prayers for Ascension Sunday was written by Rev. Tender Rickysach, Pastor Chuukese Bible Ministry at Waipahu United Church of Christ, in Waipahu, Hawaii; an active member of Hawaii Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries UCC.

Chuuk State, comprised of 290 islands and atolls, is one of four states in the Federated States of Micronesia—the others being Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap. Micronesian UCC churches are scattered throughout the United States of America with its highest concentration in Hawaii.