

May 25, 2025
Ascension Sunday



Leading Worship Today

Guest Preacher: Lisa Ellwoods

Lay Leader: Theresa Bevilacqua

Accompanist: Ralph Johansen

*Please read along with all **Bold** text
All are invited to stand when there is an **

Larger Print: Please see an usher if you would like larger print hymns and/ or bulletin.

Children's Bulletins: Please see an usher if you are interested in a children's bulletin.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Wait to be clothed with power from on high.

The one who ascended will come to us again, bringing new life and hope.

GATHERING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God of mystery,

part the veil that keeps us
from seeing your full glory and might.

Open our eyes

to behold the risen Christ,
who ascended to you in glory.

Open our hearts,

that our spirits may ascend to you
as he ascended that day.

Focus our thoughts

on the power of your salvation,
to contemplate your mysteries and wonders.

May we embrace

your great gifts and
be clothed with your power on high.

Alleluia, Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

#316 Where Charity and Love Prevail

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, raise our sights and our hopes. Even as we yearn for your glorious inheritance, we settle for so much less. Even as we long to behold the extraordinary, we keep our eyes

fixed on the ground. Even as we hope to inherit your glorious kingdom, we keep our hearts attuned to earthly power. Even as we desire to rest in the arms of your love, we listen to voices that sow discord. May your Holy Spirit find us ready when the one who ascended on high returns to his own. Alleluia, Amen.

As water is poured into the font remember your baptism and that in these waters you are named as one of God's beloved and joined to Christ forever.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Wait patiently for the Spirit to stir your spirit. Wait hopefully to be filled by the living God. For God justifies our hope, and Christ fills our cup with power from on high. **Alleluia, Amen.**

***RESPONSE**

#581 The Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Christ offers his glorious inheritance among the saints.

Rest in this blessed assurance, as we share signs of the peace of Christ with one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*The people may exchange with their neighbors, by words or gesture,
signs of peace and reconciliation.*

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open your ears to hear the joy of God's Word. **Alleluia, Amen.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 1:1-11 (CEB)

1 Theophilus, the first scroll I wrote concerned everything Jesus did and taught from the beginning, **2** right up to the day when he was taken up into heaven. Before he was taken up, working in the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus instructed the apostles he had chosen. **3** After his suffering, he showed them that he was alive with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days, speaking to them about God's kingdom. **4** While they were eating together, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised. He said, "This is what you heard from me: **5** John baptized with water, but in only a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

6 As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, "Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?"

7 Jesus replied, "It isn't for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. **8** Rather, 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 end of the earth."

9 After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. **10** While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. **11** They said, “Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven.”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Revelation 3:20-22 (CEB)

20 Look! I’m standing at the door and knocking. If any hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to be with them, and will have dinner with them, and they will have dinner with me. **21** As for those who emerge victorious, I will allow them to sit with me on my throne, just as I emerged victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. **22** If you can hear, listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

#688 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

GOSPEL READING

John 14:23-29 (CEB)

23 Jesus answered, “Whoever loves me will keep my word. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. **24** Whoever doesn’t love me doesn’t keep my words. The word that you hear isn’t mine. It is the word of the Father who sent me.

25 “I have spoken these things to you while I am with you. **26** The Companion, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I told you.

27 “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives. Don’t be troubled or afraid. **28** You have heard me tell you, ‘I’m going away and returning to you.’ If you loved me, you would be happy that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than me. **29** I have told you before it happens so that when it happens you will believe.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Lisa Ellwoods

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

*“Let us present ourselves to God as those who have been delivered from death to life.”
To contribute to our mission and ministry online, please scan the QR code.*



*DOXOLOGY

#606 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*OFFERING PRAYER

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATION

Vincent Vanderheiden
Delano High School

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of compassion, we bring before You those who need healing—
those who, like the man at the pool, long for restoration.

Be near to the sick, the lonely, and the burdened.

Touch them with Your peace and bring them wholeness in body, mind, and spirit.

We pray for those who seek direction,
who stand at the crossroads of life, unsure of where to go. Lord, be their guide.

We lift up nations in conflict, those suffering under oppression, and communities in need.

Lord, bring peace where there is strife, justice where there is wrongdoing, and hope where there is despair.

And we pray for Your church, that we may be faithful in mission—
proclaiming Your truth, sharing Your love, and shining as lights in the darkness.

Fill us with Your Spirit, that we may live as Christ's hands and feet in the world.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN

#339 Lift Every Voice and Sing

*BLESSING AND SENDING

Lift up your eyes to the heavens.

Christ ascended to show us the way.

Trust the Spirit's power.

Christ ascended to clothe us with power.

Go as witnesses of the risen Lord.

Christ ascended to bring us eternal life.

Alleluia! Amen.

POSTLUDE

Loving all People, Living our Faith, and Following Jesus

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's liturgy has been adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2022* Edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu and

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/weekly-worship/monthly/2025-may/sunday-25-may-2025-sixth-sunday-of-easter-year-c>

All other liturgy comes/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

#316 Where Charity and Love Prevail | TEXT: Latin, 8th cent.; trans. Omer Westendorf, 1960, alt. | MUSIC: Lucius Chapin, 1812 | Text © 1960, ren. 1988 World Library Publications.

#688 Spirit of God, Descend upon my Heart | TEXT: George Croly, 1867 | MUSIC: Frederick Cook Atkinson, 1870 | Public domain.

#339 Lift Every Voice and Sing | TEXT: James Weldon Johnson, 1900 | MUSIC: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1905 | Public domain.

UPCOMING THIS WEEK

Today May 25th	9:30am: Worship
Monday May 26th	<i>Happy Memorial Day!</i> ~Office Closed Today~
Tuesday May 27th	9:00am: Crafty Ladies 9:00am: Men's Breakfast at Forget Me Not Cafe
Thursday May 29th	7:30am: People of Faith via Zoom 10:00am: Women of Faith 5:30pm: Racial Justice Reading Group via Zoom
Sunday June 1st	9:30am: Worship with Holy Communion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Brian's Sabbatical: Brian will be on Sabbatical from April 29th through July 28th. The Deacon of the Week is Kathy Quady and the Elder of the Week is Don Eddy. (May 26- June 1)

Coffee, Classes, & Conversations: Will be returning in the fall. Please join us for coffee and snacks following worship.

Office Closed Monday, May 26th: The Church Office will be closed tomorrow in observance of Memorial Day.

Women's Retreat Information Session: Ladies, please join us for a Zoom meeting Thursday, May 29th at 7:00 PM to learn about the Women's Retreat.

How can we pray for you?



Along with the blue prayer request cards found in the pews you can also submit prayer requests on the BPC website. Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to be taken directly to the prayer request form. All prayer requests go directly to Pastor Brian.

BPC PRAYER LIST:

- Larry Pattee
- Dennis Sletten, friend of Diane
- Sherry Sletten, friend of Diane
- Milla Spike, Kevin's granddaughter
- Lois Lindstrom
- Theresa
- Madree
- Jim, Elaine Thole's brother, following a diagnosis
- Donna, a friend of Lana Kopplin, who has cancer
- Jill, the niece of Al DeBellis, who has terminal illness
- Jonathon, a friend of Barb & Larry Janski
- Shannon, Virginia's former daughter-in-law
- Daniel Elliot
- Erva Hance
- Barb and Tom Stone
- Jan Brown, early morning Women of Faith
- Dennis Dietz, Virginia's friend
- Rochelle Tandrian, Angela's daughter
- Jimm and Jodi Underwood, Lanny & Shirley's son-in-law and daughter
- Brittany Daniels
- John and Charlotte Collins

For peace in Ukraine and Russia, Israel/Palestine, Congo, and around the world.

For our neighbor congregations in Buffalo and for the congregations of our presbytery.


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Where Charity and Love Prevail 316



1 Where char-i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son.
3 Let strife a - mong us be un-known; let all con - ten-tions cease.
4 Let us for-give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,
5 Love can ex-clude no race or creed if hon - ored be God's name;



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
As mem-bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris-tian gen - tle - ness.
our com - mon life em - brac - es all whose Mak - er is the same.



This English paraphrase is based on a longer Latin hymn traditionally associated with the footwashing ritual on Maundy Thursday, an enactment of Christ's "new commandment" that we should love one another (John 13:34). For a chant setting of the first line of the hymn see no. 205.

TEXT: Latin, 8th cent.; trans. Omer Westendorf, 1960, alt.

MUSIC: Lucius Chapin, 1812

Text © 1960, ren. 1988 World Library Publications

TWENTY-FOURTH

CM

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart 688

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King;
 4 Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh.
 5 Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,

wean it from earth; through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;
 I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh.
 the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,

and make me love thee as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek thee, and O let me find!
 Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

This reflection on Galatians 5:25 was written by a literary Anglican clergyman whose preaching drew people of many social classes to one of the formerly poorer London churches. The tune was created for "Abide with Me" (no. 836) but more often appears with the present text.

339 Lift Every Voice and Sing

1 Lift ev - ery voice and sing till earth and heav - en
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

ring, ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
 rod, felt in the days when hope un - born had
 tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the

ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening
 died. Yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry
 way; thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the

skies; let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 feet come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 light, keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Initially a poem for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Lincoln's birthday in 1900, this text and tune have gained national recognition and devotion, not only within the African American community, but also among all who seek liberation from oppression.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh -
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get

us. Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -
 tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at
 thee; shad - owed be - neath thy hand may we for - ev - er

gun, let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
 last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.