



**May 17, 2020**

**Easter 6 Ascension Day**

**9:30 a.m.**

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

**WELCOME & NEWS OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor Craig

**MINUTE FOR MINISTRY**

**RINGING OF THE BOWL, POURING OF THE WATER, PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**PRELUDE**

*Chorale Prelude: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

J. Pachelbel

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Hebrew 4: 14, 16

Since we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, that we may receive mercy and find grace in time of need.

**OPENING HYMN**

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

275

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.  
Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe.  
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,  
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,  
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he.  
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,  
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.  
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him.

His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure.  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthy powers, no thanks to them, abideth.  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also. The body they may kill;  
God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever.

### **CALL TO PRAYER**

God of majesty, you led the Messiah through suffering into risen life, taking him up to the glory of heaven. Clothe us with the power promised from on high, send us forth to the ends of the earth, as heralds of redemption and witnesses of Jesus Christ, firstborn from the dead. Who lives with you now and always in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen

### **CALL TO PRAYER: A LITANY OF ASCENSION**

L: Arise, O LORD, in your strength.

**P: We will praise you for your glory!**

L: Let us pray to Christ at the right hand of God, saying:

**P: We will praise you for your glory!**

L: You have raised the weakness of our flesh, healed us from our sins, restored to us the dignity of life.

**P: We will praise you for your glory!**

L: May our faith lead us to the Father, as we follow the road you trod.

**P: We will praise you for your glory!**

L: You promised to draw all people to yourself; let no one of us be isolated from your body.

**P: We will praise you for your glory!**

L: Grant that by our longing we may join you, where your humanity and ours is glorified.

**P: We will praise you for your glory!**

L: You are the true God, You will be our judge, so lead us to contemplate your convictions and mercy.

**P: We will praise you for your glory!**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned him LORD of all. We confess we have not yielded or bowed before him, acknowledging his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world, failing to give Christ glory. Forgive us and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the words of our LORD Jesus Christ, who is head of the church, his body. Amen**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

#### **GLORIA PATRI**

Greatorex

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.

#### **ANTHEM**

*He Knows*

J. Camp

Brandon Jones, soloist

### **PASTORAL PRAYER & 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Acts 1:1-11

<sup>1</sup>In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup>until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the disciples he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." <sup>6</sup>Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>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." <sup>9</sup>After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. <sup>10</sup>They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>"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."

**SERMON** *Why do you stand looking into Heaven?*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *Apostles' Creed* p. 35

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only 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 hell; 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 church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**HYMN** *Hail Thee, Festival Day!* 277

**Refrain**

**Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever; day when our Lord was raised, breaking the kingdom of death.**

He who was nailed to the cross, is ruler and Lord of all people. All things created on earth sing to the glory of God:

**Refrain**

Jesus, the health of the world, enlighten our minds, great Redeemer, Son of the Father supreme, only begotten of God.

Refrain

**THE CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**     *Prayer of St. Francis: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*     arr: L. Larson

**DOXOLOGY**     606

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

**THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**HYMN**     *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*     263

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall; bring forth the royal diadem,  
and crown him Lord of all! Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball to him all majesty ascribe,  
and crown him Lord of all! To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!

**THE BENEDICTION**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**     *Because He Lives*

And because He lives, I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives, all fear is gone  
Because I know He holds the future  
And life is worth the living just because He lives

**POSTLUDE**     *I Am Thine O' Lord*     arr: A. Whitworth

**All taped Worship Services are available for replay on the**

**[Special Video Worship Page.](#)**

**Flowers given by:** Sue Wilson

## In memory of Jack

### Other Announcements

Contributions are welcome in the Church Office or by Electronic Bank Transfer.

During this time, if people would like to make special Capital Fund donations for the Sound System, Security, the Solar System, etc., just make a note of the above on the memo portion of your check.

VPC Financial / Attendance Metrics			
Monthly Giving Support Contributions		Weekly Attendance	
April-2020		Through Week # 19	
Monthly Giving Support	\$ 54,448	2020 Attendance	**
Monthly Giving Budget	\$ 67,438	2019 Attendance	226
*YTD Giving Support	\$ 252,297	*YTD 2020 Attendance	5272
*YTD Giving Budget	\$ 330,671	*YTD 2019 Attendance	7915
<i>**as of noon 5/12/20 number of on line devices tuned into Sunday service = 269</i>			
<i>D. Brooks - VPC treasurer - dxb38@cox.net - 520-399-3959 2020 Per Capita is \$46.00 per member</i>			