

Order of Worship

10:00 A.M.

May 16, 2021

Welcome! May our time in worship inspire you and provide a blessing to you!

If you are a visitor, we hope you feel welcome and worship with us again!

THE APPROACH TO GOD

*Almighty God, as we prepare to worship today,
we ask that you will stretch our imaginations to sense the
majesty and mystery of your ascension.*

*Help us perceive how Jesus' presence in heaven can give us
confidence in our praying and hope for the future.*

Through Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Prelude: "Be Still, My Soul" by Jean Sibelius, arr. John Purifoy
. Dan Chien, Organist

Introit: "The Lord Is In His Holy Temple"

Call to Worship: Rev. Richard Dykstra

Leader: People of God, the Lord of glory, Jesus Christ, sends his
greeting to you.

And his greeting is this: Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the working of the Holy Spirit.

This is the greeting of Christ, who arose from the grave.

People: He died and rose that we might have eternal life.

All thanks be to him!

L: This same Christ has ascended to the Father.

**P: He ascended that we might experience God's presence and
power. All praise be to him!**

Hymn: "Crown Him With Many Crowns"

Prayer of Confession

While we claim to celebrate the ascension of our Lord,
the way we live proclaims our lack of faith in his power to deal
with the world.

Let us confess the incongruity between our faith and practice.

Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession

**We come, O Lord, on this day of glory to confess our lack of
trust.**

**While we sing of your lordship over all creation,
we have too often acted as though you are powerless in the face
of today's events.**

**Help us to live with confidence in your presence today and in
hope for life with you forever.**

.... (silent prayer). In Christ we pray. **Amen.**

The Assurance of Pardon —based on 1 John 2:1-2, NRSV

Hear the good news of the gospel:

If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father,

Jesus Christ the righteous;

and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,

and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture: Luke 24:44-53, Acts 1:1-11

Sermon: "He Ascended into Heaven"

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

The Affirmation based on Philippians 2:5-11, NRSV

L: The Word of the Lord from Philippians 2.

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
**but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in
human likeness.**

And being found in human form, he humbled himself
**and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a
cross.**

Therefore, God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
**so that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,**
and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Offertory: “Lord, Here Am I”
..... Music by John Ness Beck, Words by Fannie Crosby

Prayer of Dedication and Doxology

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn: “Shine, Jesus, Shine”

Benediction

Choral Response: “Lord, Here Am I”

Postlude: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”
..... by Charles C. Converse, arr. John Purifoy