



Feast of the Ascension

05.21.2023

Prelude – The Band

Orientation and Offering Invitation – Corey Bergman

“It is so easy to be hopeful in the daytime when you can see the things you wish on. But it was night, it stayed night. Night was striding across nothingness with the whole round world in his hands . . . They sat in company with the others in other shanties, their eyes straining against cruel walls and their souls asking if He meant to measure their puny might against His. They seemed to be staring at the dark, but their eyes were watching God.”

– Zora Neale Hurston

Song – Safe and Sound- The Capital Cities – The Band

**I could lift you up
I could show you what you want to see
And take you where you want to be
You could be my luck
Even if the sky is falling down
I know that we'll be safe and sound
We're safe and sound**

**I could fill your cup
You know my river won't evaporate
This world we still appreciate
You could be my luck
Even in a hurricane of frowns
I know that we'll be safe and sound**

**We're safe and sound (safe and sound)
We're safe and sound (hold your ground)
We're safe and sound (safe and sound)**

**I could show you love
In a tidal wave of mystery
You'll still be standing next to me
You could be my luck
Even if we're six feet underground
I know that we'll be safe and sound**

We're safe and sound

**I could lift you up
I could show you what you want to see
And take you where you want to be
You could be my luck
Even if the sky is falling down
I know that we'll be safe and sound**

**I could lift you up
I could show you what you want to see
And take you where you want to be
You could be my luck
Even if the sky is falling down
I know that we'll be safe and sound**

**We're safe and sound
We're safe and sound
We're safe and sound (safe and sound)
We're safe and sound (safe and sound)
We're safe and sound (hold your ground)
We're safe and sound (safe and sound)**

Community Welcome – Betty Russel

Children's Sermon

God Be In My Head

God be in my head

God be in my words

God be in my heart

God be in my hands

God be in my whole self

Passing the Peace

Reading One – Think Not All is Over by Harriet Beecher Stowe

Think not, when the wailing winds of autumn
Drive the shivering leaflets from the tree,—
Think not all is over: spring returneth,
Buds and leaves and blossoms thou shalt see.

Think not, when the earth lies cold and sealed,
And the weary birds above her mourn,—
Think not all is over: God still liveth,
Songs and sunshine shall again return.

Think not, when thy heart is waste and dreary,
When thy cherished hopes lie chill and sere,—
Think not all is over: God still loveth,
He will wipe away thy every tear.

Weeping for a night alone endureth,
God at last shall bring a morning hour;
In the frozen buds of every winter
Sleep the blossoms of a future flower

Psalm 47

Refrain:

**Clap your hands, all you nations;
shout to God with cries of joy.**

For the Lord Most High is awesome,
the great King over all the earth.
He subdued nations under us,
peoples under our feet.
He chose our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom he loved

REFRAIN

God has ascended amid shouts of joy,
the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.
Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
For God is the King of all the earth;
sing to him a psalm of praise..

REFRAIN

God reigns over the nations;
God is seated on his holy throne.
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.

REFRAIN

Prayers of the People – Sara Schulte

Song – The Times They Are A'Changin Bob Dylan – The Band

Come gather 'round people
Wherever you roam
And admit that the waters
Around you have grown
And accept it that soon
You'll be drenched to the bone
If your time to you is worth savin'
And you better start swimmin'
Or you'll sink like a stone
For the times they are a-changin'

Come writers and critics
Who prophesize with your pen
And keep your eyes wide
The chance won't come again
And don't speak too soon
For the wheel's still in spin
And there's no tellin' who
That it's namin'
For the loser now
Will be later to win
For the times they are a-changin'

**Come senators, congressmen
Please heed the call
Don't stand in the doorway
Don't block up the hall
For he that gets hurt
Will be he who has stalled
The battle outside ragin'
Will soon shake your windows
And rattle your walls
For the times they are a-changin'**

**The line it is drawn
The curse it is cast
The slow one now
Will later be fast
As the present now
Will later be past
The order is rapidly fadin'
And the first one now
Will later be last
For the times they are a-changin'**

**Come mothers and fathers
Throughout the land
And don't criticize
What you can't understand
Your sons and your daughters
Are beyond your command
Your old road is rapidly agin'
Please get out of the new one
If you can't lend your hand
For the times they are a-changin'**

Reading Two: Acts 1: 1-11 (CEB) – Sara Schulte

Theophilus, the first scroll I wrote concerned everything Jesus did and taught from the beginning, 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. 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. 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: John baptized with water, but in only a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

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

Jesus replied, "It isn't for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. 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."

After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly

two men in white robes stood next to them. 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."

Called or Not Called – Shawn Kirchner – The Band

**Called or not called,
God is there.**

**Called or not called,
God is there.**

**Called or not called,
God is there.**

The hand of the Maker is everywhere.

**Seen or unseen,
God is there . . .**

**Named or unnamed
Known or unknown . . .**

A Discussion – Corey Bergman

Rise- Eddie Vedder – The Band

**Such is the way of the world
You can never know
Just where to put all your faith
And how will it grow**

**Gonna rise up
Burning black holes in dark memories
Gonna rise up
Turning mistakes into gold**

**Too fast to fold
Suddenly swallowed by signs
Low and behold**

**Gonna rise up
Find my direction magnetically
Gonna rise up
Throw down my ace in the hole**

Such is the passage of time

Celebration of Eucharist – Jim Hamilton

All are welcome at the Eucharistic table. If you do not wish to partake, feel free to come forward for a blessing, or to take this time for meditation and personal reflection.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Announcements and Commissioning – Jim Hamilton

Monday Online Bible study – The Ten Commandments – Joan Chittester at 7:30 on Zoom

Monday Evening in-person Bible Study – 7pm

Yoga – 5pm Wednesdays in person

Meditation – 8pm Wednesdays online

May 21st – Children’s Ministry Conversation – time TBD

Song – I'm so Glad Jesus Lifted Me – The Band

**I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me,
singin' Glory, Hallelujah, Jesus lifted me!**

**Satan had me bound; Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound; Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound; Jesus lifted me,
singin' Glory, Hallelujah, Jesus lifted me!**

**When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,
singin' Glory, Hallelujah, Jesus lifted me!**

**When I was a sinner, Jesus lifted me.
When I was a sinner, Jesus lifted me.
When I was a sinner, Jesus lifted me,
singin' Glory, Hallelujah, Jesus lifted me!**

Dismissal – Jim Hamilton
