

JUNE 2, 2019

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
ASCENSION SUNDAY – SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:45 AM

The Season of Easter begins with Easter Sunday and continues for 50 days until the Day of Pentecost (June 9 this year). It is the most glorious season of the Christian year. It also includes Ascension Day, which occurs 40 days after Easter and commemorates Jesus' return to heaven.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

GREETING

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Jason W. Crosby

ENTRANCE INTO WORSHIP

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

PRELUDE

IV Allegro Molto from Sonata II in G Major
Allison Hammons, flute; Louie Bailey, organ

Giovanni Platti

INVOCATION

Michael Smith

*HYMN OF PRAISE 259

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

DEDICATION OF MARY KATHLEEN WEST PFINGSTON

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAMILY

John Pfingston and Kathryn West-Pfingston

COVENANT OF DEDICATION

Minister, Parents and Congregation

Minister: By God's love we are given children through the miracle of birth.

Congregation: We give God thanks.

Minister: May we greet each new son and daughter with joy, and surround them all with faith so they may know Christ and want to be his followers.

Congregation: Never let us neglect children, but help us to delight in them, showing them the welcome God has shown us all.

Minister: John and Kathryn, in presenting Mary Kate to the Lord, do you promise in dependence upon God's grace and with the help of the church to teach your daughter the gifts and claims of the Christian faith, and by prayer, word and example to bring her up in the nurture, discipline and instruction of the Lord?

Parents: We do.

Minister: Brothers and sisters of this community of faith, I commend to you this family. Your love, care and example are as necessary to this covenant as their faithfulness in keeping their promise. As they seek to raise their daughter in the way of Jesus, will you do all in your power to make this church a true spiritual home for them, lending them the support of your prayers, your presence, your care and your love?

Congregation: With God's help we will so seek to follow Christ ourselves that John and Kathryn shall be strengthened and confirmed in their resolve, and that their daughter, surrounded by steadfast love, may be nurtured in the faith and led to walk in the way of Jesus.

WORDS OF BLESSING

THE PRESENTATION OF BIBLE, CERTIFICATE AND BLANKET

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of grace, Perfect Parent of us all, we pray for these parents and for all parents. Help John and Kathryn to love Mary Kate with Your love and be faithful to the promise they have made today. Bless Mary Kate. Guard her safely through injury and illness. Hold her in Your arms of love and grace. Guide her with Your Spirit. And keep us with this

child and all children ready to listen and to love, even as in Jesus Christ You have loved us. We pray in the name of Jesus, Your Son, our Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 16:16-34

Phyllis Skonicki

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Andrea V. Woolley

*HYMN OF ASCENSION

O Christ, Who Once Ascended

O Christ, when you ascended, you took your rightful throne;
Your time on earth had ended — yet we weren't left alone.
You reign o'er earth and heaven; your Spirit guides our way.
Your prayers uphold your people; you lead your church each day.

We look at earthly rulers and see what they command:
We note their years of power, the borders of their land.
Yet, Lord, you are not bounded by things like time and space;
Your reign is never-ending, you rule in every place.

We're tempted. Lord, to leave you in stories nicely told;
Sometimes we don't believe you and say your ways are old
Sometimes we feel so lonely and live in doubt and fear —
But your ascension means, Lord, you're present with us here.

It's often quite a challenge to follow in your Way;
We're easily distracted! It's hard, Lord, to obey.
Sometimes we give you Sundays — an hour, maybe two —
But your ascension means, Lord, all life belongs to you.

One day, O Lord, we'll know you, as we are fully known;
One day this world of sinners will bow before your throne.
One day, God's whole creation will sing and praise your name;
On earth as now in heaven, we'll celebrate your reign.

CHORAL OFFERING

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

Polish Carol, arr. Carlton Young

Chancel Choir; June Bailey, conductor; Louie Bailey, piano

Christ is risen! Shout hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder; all creation is amazed.
In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning, see what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend;
Jesus is our strong companion, joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim demonic chorus; "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

Brian Wren, ©1986 by Hope Publishing Company

*EASTER DOXOLOGY

All Creatures of Our God and King

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness, O praise him, Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son and praise the Spirit, three in one:
O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi, ca. 1225

WORDS FOR THE JOURNEY

A LIBERATING GOD

Jason W. Crosby

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Beginning with those seated at the back of the sanctuary, as directed by an usher, please come down one of the center aisles to receive and partake of the bread and the cup; then return to your seat via the outside aisle. If you do not wish to come forward, please raise your hand and someone will serve you.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

Assurance

John Ness Beck

based on *Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring*
Allison Hammons, flute; Louie Bailey, piano

Johann Sebastian Bach

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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.

*INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND COMMUNITY

We gladly welcome all who desire to unite with the community of faith at Crescent Hill Baptist Church to come forward during the Hymn of Response and share that decision with the minister.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 263

Alleluia, Sing to Jesus

HYFRYDOL

BENEDICTION

Jason W. Crosby

SILENCE

POSTLUDE

Adagio Cantabile from *Sonata, Op. 13, No. 8 ("Pathetique")*

Ludwig van Beethoven

* Worshipers are invited to rise, in body or spirit.

A benevolence offering which is used for special needs among church members and persons in our community will be taken at the doors following worship.

- CDs of today's service may be ordered through the church office.
- Texts are reprinted by permission of CCLI License 1801331 and One License A718444.
- We invite those who wish to be baptized or join the church to share that decision with the church near the conclusion of worship. However, if you would prefer to explore baptism or church membership privately, the ministers would be glad to discuss those decisions with you following worship.