



He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. MATTHEW 28:6

MAY 28-29, 2022

ASCENSION SUNDAY

MEDITATION PRAYERS BEFORE WORSHIP:

We hold up before you, our Creator, all of our loved ones who have passed from earth into eternity. Especially, we remember those who have laid down their lives that others might live. Keep them in our memories. Keep them in our hearts. And grant us the assurance that we shall be reunited around the Father's throne. Amen.

We come to celebrate Christ's ascension, our Father. We remember that his physical removal from earth made possible the coming of the Holy Spirit who is our companion at all times and in all places. We glorify God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. One God in three manifestations. Therefore, we thank you, God, that you are ever-present and ever blessing us. In Christ's name. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ *There was a sign outside on the church marquee which said, "If you don't feel as close to God as you used to, who moved?"*
- ❖ *The story of Acts, even after Jesus' ascension, is about what Jesus continued to do and teach. And the way he did it and taught it was - through his followers.*
- N. T. Wright

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Faded photographs,

All: Distant memories

One: Of special times,

All: Of painful news.

One: Family and friends

All: Saddened by death,

One: Anguished by loss,

All: Conflicted over wars.

One: Yet we are not alone,

All: We are surrounded by the saints

One: And forever remembered by God,

All: Forever held by God,

One: Forever given reason to sing,

All: For God's love is stronger than death,

One: And the Spirit gives wings to new hope.

PRAISE SONG: *For the Ones Who've Gone Before Us*
(music at end of bulletin)

OUR CONFESSION:

This is our hope, this is our certainty, that Jesus is Lord and reigns above all things on earth, and that everything that has been made has been placed beneath his feet, that all will be well, and that all manner of things will be well. Amen! Amen!

CONFESSION RESPONSE: *I Will Be With You Always*
(music at end of bulletin)

THE READING: Acts 1:1-11

This past Thursday was the day of an often-forgotten festival on the church or liturgical calendar, Ascension Day or The Ascension of Our Lord. In this scripture passage, Luke begins his second book, The Acts of the Apostles, by telling the story of Jesus' Ascension and with it the charge and promise of His Holy Spirit to His disciples then and all His later followers including us.

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But 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 ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

THE GOSPEL:**Luke 24:44-53**

This is the ending of Luke's first book, his story of Jesus' life. He ends it with Jesus' ascension, but prior to it with a statement by Jesus of who He is and a charge to His disciples to stay in Jerusalem to receive "power from on high", a reference to the coming of the Holy Spirit who will empower them and all who identify as believers in and followers of Jesus.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

MESSAGE: *"Remember"*

Pastor David Schoob

MESSAGE RESPONSE: *From Now On (music at end of bulletin)*

THE PRAYERS**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT:

Leader: Enable us, O Lord, to go forth into the world joyful and unashamed of the gospel, which nurtures all who receive it and offers eternal hope to all servants of Christ. You have blessed us as we have worshiped. Watch over us now as we go forth to labor wherever your Spirit directs. May your love, mercy and peace be ours forevermore.

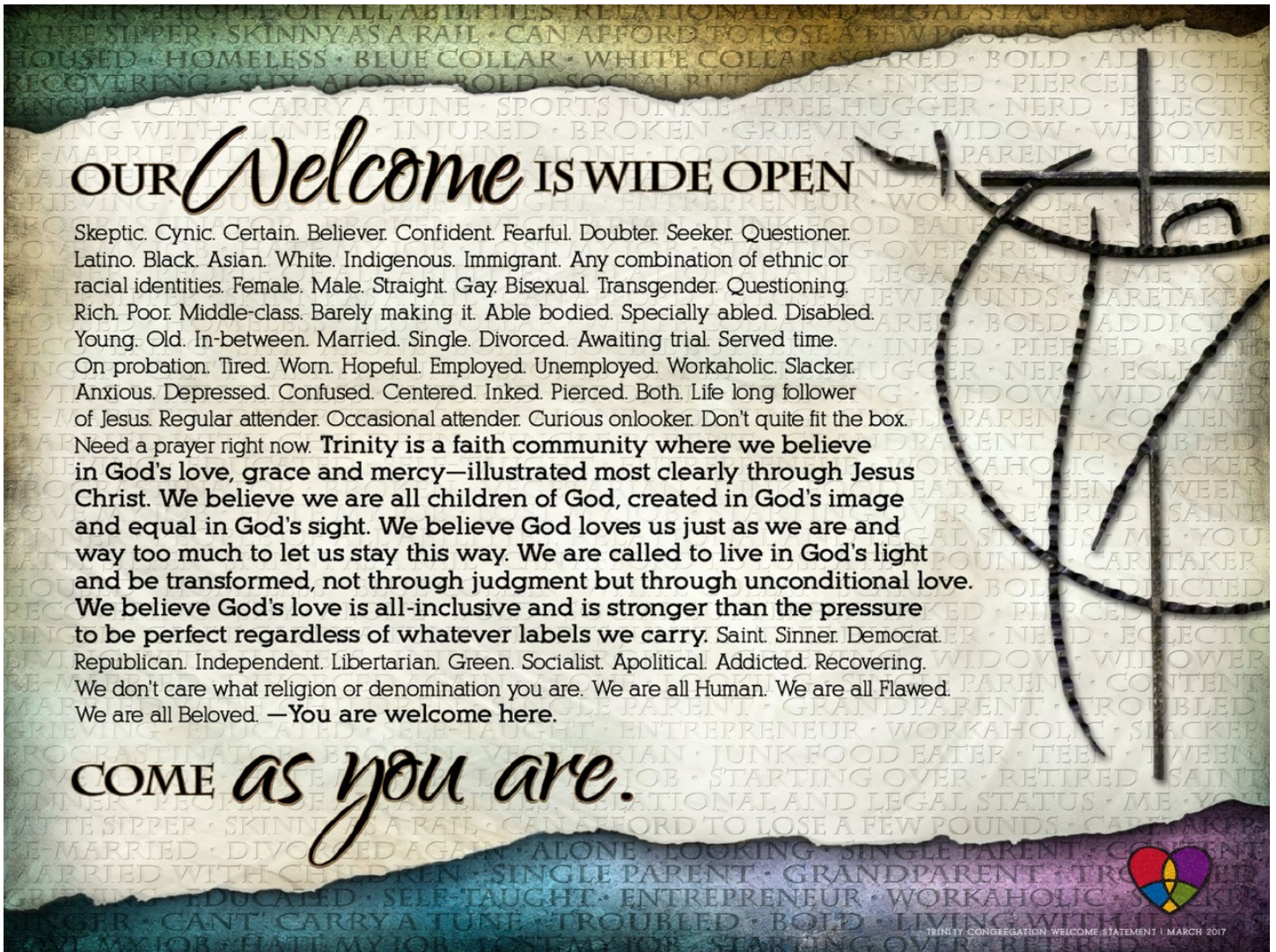
ALL: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: *Forever (music at end of bulletin)*

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



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For the Ones Who've Gone Before Us

For the ones who've gone be - fore us, bless - ed pil - grims
Moth - ers, fath - ers, sis - ters, broth - ers, child - ren held deep
of our faith, we give thanks and we re - mem - ber,
in this place, we give thanks and we re - mem - ber,
pre - cious ones we hold as saints. God of love you
through your lives we know God's grace.
are for - ev - er. Through the days you lead us on. Though we wan - der
in the dark - ness, God of love you lead us home.

I Will Be With You Always

I will be with you_ al__ - ways; Ev - en un - til__ the
close of the age,__ to give you pow - er__ and give you peace, to
give you_ com - fort all of your days. I will be with you al
- ways! I will be with you_ al__ - ways!
I will be with you through all of your days._

From Now On

Congregational lyrics in bold type. Song leader lyrics in italics.

From now on (*I'll be with you till the end of the age.*) From now
on (*your king - dom come, for this we'll live and we'll pray*) From now
on (*we'll work for peace un - til the fi - nal day*). From now on... *Fine*

God's near - - - - - (*God won't for - sake you.*)
Christ cares (giv - ing his life for all peo - ple).

God's here (and knows the pains that face you).
We share (the love of his that's e - ter - nal).

Now we're (called to go out in the world).
Go there (for he has asked us to fol - low).

Teach and heal word and that meet ev - 'ry need, help the
Spread the word that God's in our land. Spread the

lame to sage walk and the blind to see.
mes - sage that - will al - ways stand.

Forever

1. Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King His
2. With a mighty hand and out-stretched arm, His
love endures for- ev - er. For He is good, He is a -
love endures for- ev - er. For the life that's
bove all things, His love endures for - ev - er. Sing
been re - born His love endures for - ev - er.
1. praise, sing praise. 2. Sing praise, sing praise.
For - ev - er God is faith - ful. For - ev - er God is strong.
For - ev - er God is with us, for - ev - er.
1. For - ev - 2.,3. Fine 3. From the ris - ing to the
set - ting sun His love endures for - ev - er. And by the
grace of God we will car - ry on. His love endures for - ev
er. Sing praise, sing praise. Sing praise, sing praise.
D.S. (to chorus)