

*As he blessed them, he left them and was taken up to heaven.
Luke 24:51*

Worship Theme:

Being the Church of Grace for the People who will be Grace

PRELUDE - 'Liturgical Improvisation III' - George Oldroyd (1887-1956)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Clap your hands, all you people!

People: Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Leader: Sing praises to God, sing praises!

People: Sing praises to our sovereign Lord!

Leader: God is sovereign over all the earth!

People: Sing praises to God, sing praises!

Leader: Let everything that has breath sing praises.

People: Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

HYMN

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies



1. Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly light,
2. Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa-nied by thee;
3. Vis - it then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of Righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri-umph o'er the shades of night;
joy-less is the day's re-turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see;
fill me, Ra - dian - cy di-vine, scat-ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im-part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis-play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you are our strength and our shield. We give you thanks for the men and women of our armed forces, past and present, and especially for those who have died while serving. May their sacrifices serve the cause of peace, and may our nation be ever grateful for their service. With your wisdom and strength guide our military's leaders, and give to all people a desire for justice and peace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, #881 The Apostles' Creed

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 Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at 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 Spirit,
the holy catholic** church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI, #70

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.

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

Anthem - 'Teach me, O Lord' - Thomas Attwood (1765-1838)

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes and I shall keep it unto the end.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 1:1-11

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 during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying[a] 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 toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward 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."

PSALM LESSON Psalm 47

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with a cry of joy.
For the Lord Most High is to be feared;
he is the great King over all the earth.
He subdues the peoples under us,
and the nations under our feet.
He chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.
God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.
Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
For God is King of all the earth;
sing praises with all your skill.
God reigns over the nations;
God sits upon his holy throne.
The nobles of the peoples have gathered together
with the people of the God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God,
and he is highly exalted.
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.

EPISTLE LESSON Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

HYMN

I Love to Tell the Story



1. I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2. I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems
3. I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat
4. I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
than all the gold - en fan - cies of all our gold - en dreams.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, because I know 'tis true; it sat - is - fies my
I love to tell the sto - ry, it did so much for me; and that is just the
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard the message of sal -
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old



long - ings as noth - ing else can do.
rea - son I tell it now to thee. I love to tell the sto - ry, 'twill
va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.
sto - ry that I have loved so long.



be my theme in glo - ry, to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 24:44-53

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 worshiped him, and[d] returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Pastor: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON "Looking Up, Looking Around"

Pastor Margaret Clemons

CLOSING HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns



1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne.
2. Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave,
3. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
4. Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,



Hark! how the heaven - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its
and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and
those wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri -



own. A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
save. His glo - ries now we sing, who died, and rose on high,
praise. His reign shall know no end, and round his pierc - ed feet
fied. All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

BENEDICTION

*People of God,
receive the blessing of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.
Go now to live in Christian love and witness to the power of forgiveness
in your homes, in your community, even to the ends of the earth,
until that day when Christ returns in glory. Amen.*

POSTLUDE - 'Fanfare' - Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)



Memorial Day
Remember & Honor

