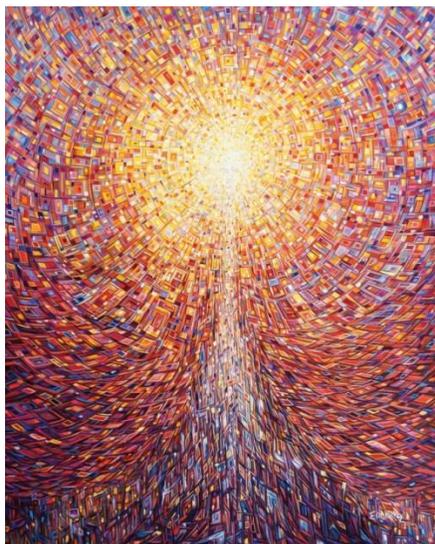


SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 16, 2021

11:00 AM



OPENING VOLUNTARY

"MEDITATION" (FROM THAIS)
NANCY HODGES, ORGAN

MASSENET, ARR. BY RICK PARKS

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

BEHOLD OUR GOD
SUNG BY CHURCH FOLK

* **CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Clap your hands and shout to the Lord with songs of joy and praise! Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

God has gone up with a shout, and the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

For God is the ruler of the earth; the Lord reigns on a holy throne. Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

God put this power to work in Christ, raising him from the dead. Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

God has highly exalted him, giving him the name that is above all names. Lift up your hearts.

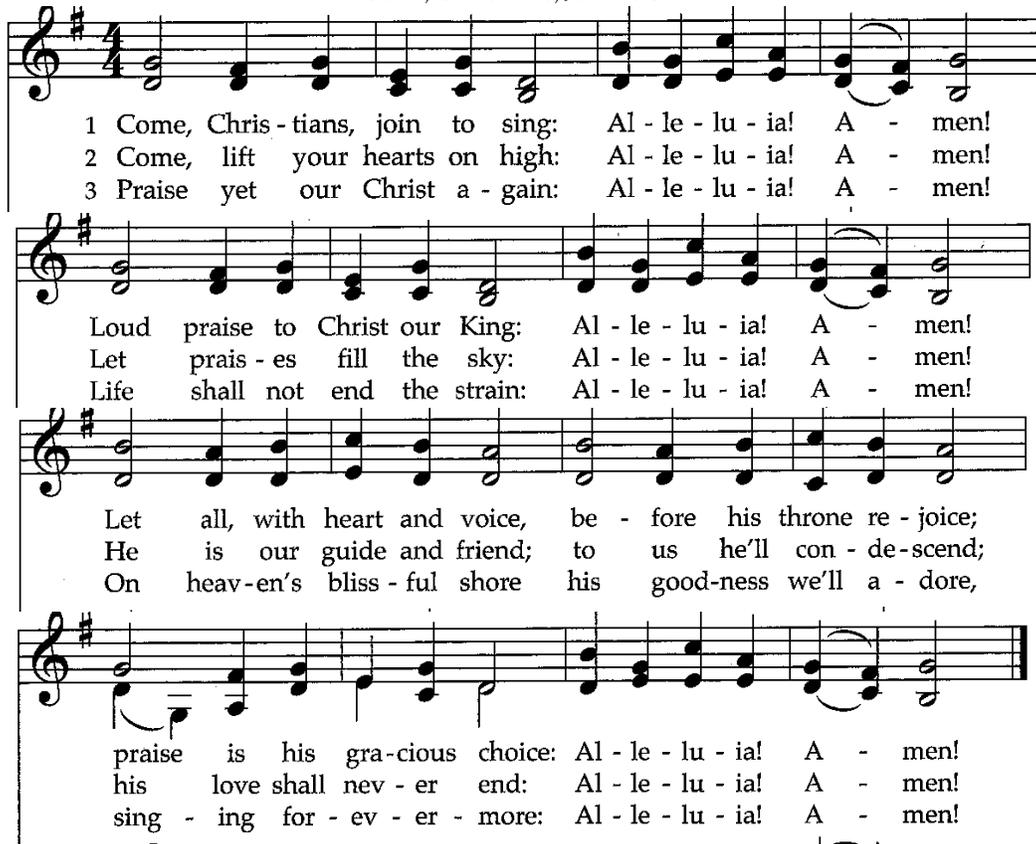
We lift them to the Lord.

Jesus Christ is Lord! Sing praises and give glory to God in the highest. Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us pray:

Most high God, we are witnesses to the life of Jesus Christ, given in love for the world, raised from the dead, and lifted up in heavenly glory. Draw us into his presence this day, that we may worship you always through Him who is our Savior and Lord. Amen.



1 Come, Chris-tians, join to sing: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!
 2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!
 3 Praise yet our Christ a-gain: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

Loud praise to Christ our King: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!
 Let prais-es fill the sky: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!
 Life shall not end the strain: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

Let all, with heart and voice, be-fore his throne re-joice;
 He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con-de-scend;
 On heav-en's bliss-ful shore his good-ness we'll a-dore,

praise is his gra-cious choice: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!
 his love shall nev-er end: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!
 sing-ing for-ev-er-more: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you raised Jesus from death to life and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not fully acknowledged his reign. Instead of recognizing his rule in our lives we have adopted the ways of the world. Instead of following in his steps we go where our own desires take us. Instead of his justice and peace, we seek power and advantages. Forgive us, we pray. Lift us from our sins, and grant that we may become more faithful people, obeying the commands of our lord Jesus Christ, living and serving in his name in both the church and the world. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* HUMMED RESPONSE #582

GLORY TO GOD, WHOSE GOODNESS SHINES ON ME

"GLORY TO GOD"

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son,
 whose grace has pardoned me,
 and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free!
 As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love^[a] toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ 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, ¹⁸ 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, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God^[b] 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, ²¹ 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. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

ANTHEM

YOU, LORD, ARE BOTH LAMB AND SHEPHERD (HYMN #274)
NANCY HODGES, ORGAN AND READ BY JULIE COURTNEY

"PICARDY"

SECOND READING

LUKE 24:44-53

⁴⁴ 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." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah^[a] is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses^[b] of these things. ⁴⁹ 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."

The Ascension of Jesus

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.^[c] ⁵² And they worshiped him, and^[d] returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.^[e]

SERMON

"CAN I GET BE A WITNESS"

REV. DR. WALT PETERS

* HYMN #363

REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING!

DARWALL'S 148TH"

Descant

4 Re-joyce in glo - rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

1 Re - joyce, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore!
2 Our Sav - ior, Je - sus, reigns, the God of truth and love;
3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
4 Re - joyce in glo - rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

and gath - er all the saints to their e - ter - nal home.

Re - joyce, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more.
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove.
the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus given.
and gath - er all the saints to their e - ter - nal home.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re-joyce!

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re-joyce!

MORNING OFFERING AND OFFERTORY PRAYER

(The offering is to be placed in the dish at the rear of the sanctuary. We are not passing the plate at this time)

* DOXOLOGY #606

PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

"OLD HUNDRETH"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
 Praise God, all creatures here below;
 Praise God above, you heavenly hosts,
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Each petition will conclude with "God of new life..." to which the congregation will respond "Hear our prayer.")

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 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.

* HYMN #260

ALLELUIA! SING TO JESUS!

"HYFRYDOL"



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter, his the
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in sor - row
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, here on earth our food, our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o - tent we



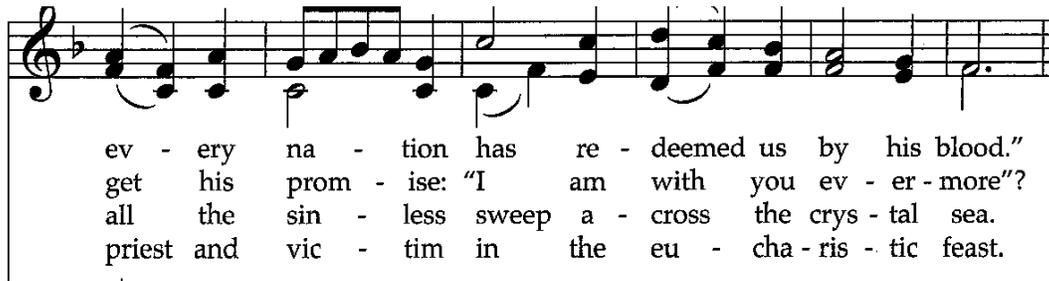
throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the vic - to -
 now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be - lieves nor
 stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to you from
 own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your foot - stool,



ry a - lone! Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on
 ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re - ceived him,
 day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners,
 heaven your throne. As with - in the veil you en - tered,



thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of
 when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our hearts for -
 earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the songs of
 robed in flesh, our great high priest; here on earth both



ev - ery na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood.
 get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?
 all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

* **BENEDICTION**

* **RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #750**

GOODNESS IS STRONGER THAN EVIL

"GOODNESS IS STRONGER"

Goodness is stronger than evil; Love is stronger than hate.
 Light is stronger than darkness; Life is stronger than death.

Victory is ours, victory is ours! Through him who loves us.
 Victory is ours, victory is ours! Through him who loves us.

POSTLUDE

REPRISE, "REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING"
 NANCY HODGES, ORGAN

ARR. BY PETER BENJAMIN

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, if you are able, please stand.
 Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

This Morning's Worship Leaders

Preacher.....Rev. Dr. Walt Peters
 Liturgist..... Josh Gilhart
 Director of Music Ministries.....Bryan Lohr
 Guest Organist.....Nancy Hodges
 Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
 Ushers.....Kathy and Jeff Getty

Worship Notes

Today we welcome back our guest preacher, the Rev. Walt Peters, to the pulpit. He served congregations in Macon, GA; Tampa, FL, and Augusta, GA, before coming to First Presbyterian in Westminster in 1999, being honorably retired by Baltimore Presbytery in October of 2013. In retirement he is an active participant in the Wild Wild West Ministry Group. He and his wife Rebecca reside in Hagerstown. They have three grown children and two grandchildren. "Fun Fact: His first job after graduation was as a vocational education teacher and JV basketball coach in Lumpkin County, Georgia."

STAFF VACATION NOTICE: Executive Administrative Assistant Brittany Jackson will be on vacation from Wednesday, May 19th - Friday, May 28th. The church office will be staffed from 9:00AM-12:00PM by office volunteers. Also, please note that the Church office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, May 31st in observance of Memorial Day.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME: A very warm welcome to everyone who comes to worship with us here at First Presbyterian Church! We are proud of being a "Big Tent Church" where everyone is welcome to join us in worshipping and serving our Lord, Jesus Christ. We welcome and encourage participants from all sexes including the LGBTQ+ community, all political parties, all races, and all walks of life. We welcome you to worship with us.

WELCOME VISITORS: We are glad you found your way to First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland. For more information about opportunities to worship, learn and serve with us, we encourage you to visit the table outside the church office. You can also learn more about us at www.fpc-cumberland.org and www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: We welcome you to bring your child with you to worship. We have "worship bags" in the back of the sanctuary that include materials for drawing and coloring, as well as Bible stories and Bible word-find games. Our "Young Children in Worship" pew card contains information about why young children should be encouraged to come to worship and how parents and others can engage them more fully in worship.

THE PRAY-GROUND is a special space in the sanctuary for our youngest children and their families. All families are welcome to come and sit in the right front pews with their children seated on the rug. This front row seat will allow God's youngest children to participate in the service in a place where they can see and hear best. There will be activities provided so that their little hands are kept busy while participating in worship. "Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it'" (Mark 10:14-15).

PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES: (amplifiers) are available in the back of the church for use during worship. Please see an usher for assistance.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: There are currently flower openings on May 23rd, June 6th and June 13th. Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of someone. You may specify live or silk flowers. Silk flower money will be directed to the Special Ministries Fund.

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS: Please use orange prayer request cards in the back of the sanctuary by the bulletins to share any joys and concerns. Place the card in the offering plate once you have completed your request. The ushers will bring them to the pastor during the offering.

OFFERING PLATES: Offering plates are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Please deposit your gifts, offerings, and tithes into the plate as you enter or exit the sanctuary.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: GARY HENDRICKSON & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of May 2, 2021
Total 2021 Pledges Promised	\$192,124.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 400.00
<u>2021 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$191,724.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$64,241.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$67,716.00
Over/(Under)	\$(3,475.00)

MISSION

RULING ELDERS: AARON HENDRICKSON & LAURA FISCUS

The Missions Committee is actively seeking congregation members to serve on our committee. There is no administrative work to do, just bring your passion for helping others, ideas of how we can serve our nation, world, and community, and your time, on the first Tuesday of every month at 5:30 in the Gathering Place. Please join us! For questions and/or interest please contact Aaron Hendrickson, Judy Stern, Georgene McKenzie, Linda Smith, Robin Bissell, or Rolfe Singerman, or just simply show up for any of our meetings. We hope to see you there!

PENTECOST OFFERING: On **Pentecost Sunday, May 23**, the congregation will have the opportunity to donate to the Pentecost Offering, one of four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

40% of what our church donates goes to help support The Family Junction here in Cumberland. This organization provides the resources parents need to strengthen their relationships with their children. Their parenting curriculums stress active parent involvement, successful communication skills, appropriate boundaries, practical discipline methods, age-appropriate expectations, nurturing techniques and stress relief. Their goal is enriching the relationship between parent and child through effective communication, common-sense parenting skills and positive discipline.

The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

FAITH FORMATION
RULING ELDER: JOSH GILHART

FAITH FORMATION SAVE-THE-DATES:

Sunday, June 13th: Worship & Milestone of Remembrance at Rocky Gap State Park

Monday, June 14th- Friday, June 25th: Virtual Community Vacation Bible School (Registration forms can be found on the FPC website.)

Saturday, July 24th: Church Retreat, "Close Encounters of the God-kind"

*More details to come from the Faith Formation Team

WORSHIP & MUSIC
RULING ELDERS: SHARON KAZARY & CARL BELT

Join us next Sunday, May 23rd for Pentecost! Please help us celebrate the gift of the Spirit by wearing something **red**.