



Great Falls United Methodist Church
 10100 Georgetown Pike ☙ Great Falls, VA 22066
 703-759-3705 ☙ www.greatfallsumc.org
 Reverend Livingstone S. Dore, Pastor

May 5, 2024
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Ascension Day Celebration

**“Real Christians do not carry their religion,
 their religion carries them.
 It is not weight, it is wings.”**

~Harry Emerson Fosdick

We Gather in Praise and Worship

GATHERING

Day by Day
 Oscar Ahnfelt, Arr. Jay Rouse

Alice Eelman
 Music Director

WELCOME & MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Karen Kelly

CENTERING

Moderato in C
 J. Blied

AE

This signals the beginning of our worship service. Let us be in quietness and a spirit of prayer.

Our Worship to God

*CALL TO WORSHIP

KK

L: Today we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord – Christ’s return to God.

C: We look up in wonder as he is lifted from us into heaven!

L: But this is not a time to gaze upward. There is work to be done.

C: Jesus has entrusted the ministry of God’s love to us.

L: Let’s get to work!

C: Let’s make our hearts ready for the task ahead with prayer and praise!

L: Amen.

C: Amen!

*HYMN

We Are God’s People

2220 FWS

*OPENING PRAYER

LD

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is always with you,

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray:

C: O Lord, Easter had such an impact on our lives. We walked the by-ways with Jesus, ate with him and wept at the crucifixion. Easter morn dawned brightly in our lives at the news of the Resurrection and we sang songs of great joy. Watch over us, gentle God, as we pray and work to do your will. Keep our hearts open to your loving word and ways. Amen.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

881UMH

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.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Greet your neighbor in the love and peace of Christ

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

in Room 12 & 15 downstairs

David Clark/Riffat Hassan

We Hear the Ascension Story

An introductory account of the Ascension of our Lord Rev. L. Dore

Act I:

Jesus Taken Up into Heaven

Karen Kelly

Acts 1: 1-11 (NIV)

*HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns (vs 1,2,3)

327 UMH

*PRAYER

O God of earth and sky, as Jesus came among us in Bethlehem to raise us up to heaven, so today we recall his departing from us at Jerusalem to be in all places. Though he is hidden from our sight, enable us to abide in him by the power and grace of the Holy Spirit, until his mercy and grace fill your whole creation. Amen.

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Act 2:

God's enthronement over all creation and people

Hubert Deaton

Psalm 47 (with response)

781 UMH

HYMN

Jesus Shall Reign (vs 1,4,5)

157 UMH

PRAYER

God our Father, make us joyful in the ascension of your Son Jesus Christ. May we follow him into the new creation, for his ascension is our glory and our hope. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Act 3:

God's power at work in and through the risen Christ

Diane Ingram

Ephesians 1: 15-23 (NIV)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

L: In these words, we hear of the power of Christ and the promise of a Spirit of power

C: We hear the ancient story come alive in our lives

L: We seek a spirit of wisdom and revelation in Christ

C: We await a spirit of power from God. Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Holy Spirit. Come into our lives.

ANTHEM

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Colleen Geiseking

G.F. Handel

MORNING PRAYER

THE JOYFUL GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

Jesus the Very Thought of Thee
John B. Dykes

AE

*DOXOLOGY

94 UMH

The Story Continues

Act 4:

Jesus' ascension is not an end-all event

Rich Lankford

Luke 24: 44–53 (NIV)

The Word of God for the people of God

Thanks Be To God

PRAYER

L: Lord, we are impatient! We want everything right now, instantly! We don't want to wait for anything.

C: **We rush our holidays, our celebrations, our very lives and then wonder why our spirits are exhausted and depressed.**

L: Slow us down, Lord.

C: **Help us to enjoy the process of waiting for the wondrous things you offer us. As we listened to the scriptures this day, let our hearts be at peace knowing that you have taught us what we need to know to serve God joyfully in this world. Amen.**

*HYMN

Christ Is Alive! (vs 1,2,5)

318 UMH

*SENDING FORTH

*POSTLUDE

Trumpet Air
Henry Purcell

AE