

WORSHIP SERVICE
May 16, 2021
Ascension Sunday

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

- * God's Greeting
- * We Greet One Another

Christ be with you.

And also with you!

- * Call to Worship (Lamentations 3:21-25)

This I call to mind and therefore I have hope:

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore, I will wait for him."

The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him

- * Opening Song: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Lift Up Your Hearts #348

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou forever wilt be. Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and spring-time and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide, strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow – blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

- * Opening Prayer

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

You have heard what was written about Jesus in Scripture—

how he would suffer and die and then rise from the dead on the third day;

how the same power that raised Jesus from the dead

raised Him to heaven and seated Him at the right hand of God,

where he now lives to intercede on our behalf.

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

Unison Prayer of Confession

We come, O Lord, on this day of glory to confess our lack of trust. While we sing of lordship over all creation, we have too often acted as though you are powerless in the face of today's events. Help us to live with confidence in your presence today and in hope for life with you forever. Amen.

God's Words of Assurance (From 1 John 2:1-2)

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

* Song of Response: "He Is Exalted" *Sing! A New Creation #41*

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high: I will praise Him.
He is exalted, forever exalted, and I will praise his name!
He is the Lord, forever his truth shall reign;
Heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high: I will praise Him.
He is exalted, forever exalted, and I will praise his name!
He is the Lord, forever his truth shall reign;
Heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 6:13-20

¹³ When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants." ¹⁵ And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

¹⁶ People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. ¹⁷ Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. ¹⁸ God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. ¹⁹ We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, ²⁰ where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

Message: "Why Go to Church – Hope!"

* Song of Response: "Before the Throne of God Above" *Lift Up Your Hearts #682*

Before the throne of God above I have a strong, a perfect plea;
a great High Priest, whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands, my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look, and see him there who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;

for God the Just is satisfied to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there! the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless righteousness;
the great unchangeable "I AM," the King of glory and of grace!
One with himself, I cannot die, my soul is purchased by his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God,
with Christ my Savior and my God.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song: "Rejoice the Lord is King" *Lift Up Your Hearts #224*

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore.
Rejoice, give thanks and sing and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice. Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell to Christ the Lord are given.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice. Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

He sits at God's right hand till all his foes submit,
bow down at his command, and fall beneath his feet.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice. Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope; for Christ, the Judge,
shall come to gather all his saints to their eternal home.

We soon shall hear the archangel's voice; the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

* Postlude

* Please stand if you are able

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Char Verkade, Laura Hufford

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **special offering** this week is for **Home for Awhile**. Several churches in the Ames area have partnered together to create this organization that seeks to reduce homelessness in our community. Families who have been recently evicted or are nearing homelessness are eligible for three months of subsidized housing through Home For Awhile.

Graduation Recognition Sunday - Today we recognize and honor students graduating from each of these levels of their education: College, High School, Middle School, Elementary School, and Preschool. We give thanks for and honor their achievements and uphold them in prayer as they take the “next” step. **After the service, fellowship time will be held outside.**

McKenzie’s Graduation Party - Everyone is welcome to join us to celebrate the graduation of McKenzie! The party will be on **Saturday, May 22**. Talk to her about the location of the party.

NEW Elder Care Groups are as follows: A-G = Tom Kuyper, (Changed) H-K = Melody Franje, L-S = Mark Voss, T-Z = Paul Kleinwolterink

Deacons: Donna Bergman, Andrew Friend, Judy Oltman, Tina VanDyk

From the Deacons - Talk to a Deacon to find out more about April’s income and expenses.

Midwest B.A.S.I.C. Youth Bible Camp - Camp is from July 19-23 in Eldora. All graduates of grades 6-12 are encouraged to attend. You can register on the camp facebook page (search for Midwest B.A.S.I.C. Youth Bible Camp). If you plan to attend, please register soon so that they can make sure they have enough counselors.

Roots meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. (Please wear a mask.)

At-home Faith Formation Tip - “The Practice of Prayer: The Lord’s Prayer: An Intergenerational Event and Worship Experience” is a downloadable free resource with which children, teens, and adults can gather to learn about and/or deepen their understanding of the Lord’s Prayer. Try it in your church! Find it at tinyurl.com/intergenprayer.