

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD
Ascension Sunday

Voluntary: Ricercare ("In the Grand Style") on "Llanfair" David Briggs

Introit: Lift your heads, O ye gates Eric Thiman

Call to Worship

“...Christ has entered...into heaven itself...to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.” *Hebrews 9:24*

Hymn: 438 The Head that once was crowned with thorns *St Magnus*

1. The Head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty Victor's brow.
2. The highest place that heaven affords
Is His, is His by right,
The King of kings, and Lord of lords,
And heaven's eternal Light;
3. The joy of all who dwell above,
The joy of all below
To whom He manifests His love,
And grants His Name to know.
4. To them the cross, with all its shame,
With all its grace, is given;
Their name an everlasting name,
Their joy the joy of heaven.
5. They suffer with their Lord below,
They reign with Him above,
Their profit and their joy to know
The mystery of His love.
6. The cross He bore is life and health,
Though shame and death to Him,
His people's hope, His people's wealth,
Their everlasting theme.

***We bring to God our prayers and
The Lord's Prayer***

**Our Father,
Which art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom,
The power and the glory, forever.
Amen**

We hear the Word of God

New Testament:

Acts 1:1-11
(Read by Euan Murray)

In the first book, O The-oph'ilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. ⁴And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, ⁵for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samar'ia and to the end of the earth."

⁹ And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Amen

Children's Time

We respond to God's Word with our Offering
(Children invited to help with the Offering)



To use the QR code please open the camera app on your smart phone, point it at the QR code, and follow instructions on your screen. Donations do not need to be made during the Service but can be done any time at your leisure.

Offertory: Chorale Prelude on "Heut' triumphiret, Herre Gottes Sohn",
BWV 630 J S Bach

Prayer

Children leave for Crèche and Sunday Club

Hymn: 441 Blessing and honour and glory and power

Bonnie George Campbell

1. Blessing and honour and glory and power,
Wisdom and riches and strength evermore
Give to the Lord Who our battle hath won,
Whose are the Kingdom, the crown, and the throne.

2. Into the heaven of the heavens hath He gone;
Sitteth He now in the joy of the throne;
Weareth He now of the Kingdom the crown;
Singeth He now the new song with His own.

3. Soundeth the heaven of the heavens with His Name;
Ringeth the earth with His glory and fame;
Ocean and mountain, stream, forest and flower
Echo His praises and tell of His power.
4. Ever ascendeth the song and the joy;
Ever descendeth the love from on high;
Blessing and honour and glory and praise -
This is the theme of the hymns that we raise.
5. Give we the glory and praise to the Lamb;
Take we the robe and the harp and the palm;
Sing we the song of the Lamb that was slain,
Dying in weakness, but rising to reign.

We bring to God our Prayers of Confession

We hear the Word of God

New Testament: **Philippians 2:1-11**

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen

Lift up your heads, great gates, and sing,
Now glory comes, and glory's king;
Now by your high all golden way
The fairer heav'n comes home today.

Hark! Now the gates are ope,
And hear the tune of each triumphant sphere;
Where ev'ry angel as he sings
Keeps time with his applauding wings,
And makes heav'ns loftiest roof rebound
The echos of the noble sound.

Lift up your heads...

(Joseph Beaumont (1616-99))

Intimations

Hymn: 446 Lift up your hearts, believers!

St Theodulph

1. Lift up your hearts, believers!
This is the holy day
When Jesus, our Redeemer,
Completes salvation's way.
The forty days are over,
And clouds shine high and bright
As Christ, the overcomer,
Is lifted from our sight.
2. Lift up your hearts, believers!
Ye gates, lift up your heads!
Though minds be full of wonder,
Though souls be filled with dread.
The Spirit has been promised,
And though we are alone,
We wait until the moment
When fire and wind are known.

3. Lift up your hearts, believers!
And do not be downcast,
For Jesus, our Redeemer,
Receives the crown at last.
The thorns of crucifixion
Are changed to stars of light,
And Christ, the Lord of glory,
Is named as God's delight.

4. Lift up your hearts, believers!
This is the holy day
When Jesus, our Redeemer,
Completes salvation's way.

Sermon

Ascension



***We bring to God our prayers
of Thanksgiving and Intercession***

Hymn: 439 Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious!

Regent Square

1. Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious!
See the Man of Sorrows now,
From the fight returned victorious -
Every knee to Him shall bow.
Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him!
Crowns become the Victor's brow.

2. Crown the Saviour, angels, crown Him!
Rich the trophies Jesus brings;
In the seat of power enthrone Him,
While the vault of heaven rings.
Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him!
Crown the Saviour King of kings!

3. Sinners in derision crowned Him,
Mocked the dying Saviour's claim;
Saints and angels crowd around Him,
Own His title, praise His Name.
Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him!
Spread abroad the Victor's fame.

4. Hark, those bursts of acclamation!
Hark, those loud triumphant chords!
Jesus takes the highest station -
Oh, what joy the sight affords!
Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him!
King of kings and Lord of lords!

Benediction and Threefold Amen

Voluntary: March upon Handel's "Lift up your heads" Alexandre Guilmant