



ASCENSION SUNDAY



First Presbyterian Church 1573 N. Highland Avenue 731-422-1591 fpcjacksontn.org

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 21, 2023

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you, that, loving you above all else, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. John White

PRELUDE

Prelude on GALILEE

Lovelace

Dr. Terry McRoberts

CHORAL INTROIT

My Lord, What a Morning

Afro-American melody

Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Steve Bowers

One: We have come to worship God, the living God,

ALL: *Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.*

One: We have come to praise God, the almighty God,

ALL: *Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.*

One: We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,

ALL: *Who chooses even you and me, to receive and carry the Word of life and hope.*

All glory to God!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 54 *Make a Joyful Noise to God*

DIX

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. John White

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. John White

One: Too often, Lord God,

ALL: *we are hesitant in our proclamation; seeking safe and suitable opportunities to speak of our faith.*

One: Too often, Lord God,

ALL: *we are half-hearted in our service; reluctant to stand out from the crowd or to attract criticism.*

One: Too often, Lord God,

ALL: *we live as if dependent wholly on our own resources; relying on our perceived skills and modest insights.*

One: Too often, Lord God, we look to the clouds for our inspiration, in the vain hope of finding you there.

ALL: *Forgive the poverty of our efforts and the frailty of our faith and open wide our hearts and minds to the immanent presence of our Risen, Living and Ascended Lord Jesus Christ. In his name we pray, Amen.*

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. John White

One: Hear the good news! God's Spirit has been poured out upon all flesh, and we have been made one. We are no longer scattered or divided, but gathered together to build up the kingdom on this earth.

ALL: *Thanks be to God! In Christ we are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen!*

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 447 *We Are Forgiven*

WE ARE FORGIVEN

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: *And, also, with you.*

THE WORD

ANTHEM

Communion
Chancel Choir

Wagner

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Libby Smith

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

Amy Dietrich (Reaffirmation of Faith)
Leslie Schutt (Reaffirmation of Faith)
Blest be the Tie that Binds (Hymn 306)

Rev. John White

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. John White

*HYMN: 292 *As the Wind Song*

WAIRUA TAPU

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Steve Bowers

NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 8:8-14 (page 126)

Elder Steve Bowers

One: This is the word of God. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Long Range Plan

Rev. John White

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from A Declaration of Faith**

Elder Steve Bowers

The Spirit helps believers grow in the new life. The Christian fellowship was not a society of perfect people. The struggle between the old way of life and the new was severe. Yet the Spirit produced among followers of Jesus love, joy, peace, and victories in the battle against evil. We believe the Holy Spirit works today whenever believers grow toward maturity in Christ. As long as we live, we struggle with sin, but the Spirit's presence assures us God will complete what he has begun in us.

OFFERING

Elder Steve Bowers

OFFERTORY

Prelude on BREAD OF LIFE

Bingham

Dr. Terry McRoberts

*Doxology (Tune: 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

*Dedicatory Prayer

Elder Steve Bowers

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

***COMMUNION HYMN: 507 Come to the Table of Grace (verses 1-2)**

TABLE OF GRACE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND SHARING OF THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

***COMMUNION HYMN: 507 Come to the Table of Grace (verses 3-5)**

TABLE OF GRACE

SENDING

***CHARGE + BENEDICTION**

Rev. John White

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Tallis' Canon
Chancel Choir

Tallis

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

POSTLUDE

Toccata
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Hudson