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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor  
Louis Allison, Tech Director  
Cody Messersmith, Worship Music Director  
Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

May 17, 2026

9:45 AM

**Ascension Sunday: Hearts that Rise, Feet that Go**  
**A Service of Lessons, Prayer, and Songs**

*Thank you for worshipping with us today. If you are a guest, we invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary.*

*We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! We have children's books and activity bags for them to enjoy in the side narthex! Additionally, after the children's message, children from 3 years old—6th grade are invited to participate in Sunday school in our classroom downstairs. They can choose to attend Sunday school or return to their seats to sit with their parents. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP**

**WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM**

*Song of Joy*

by Besig/Althouse

**GATHERING: HEARTS AWAKENING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Christ is lifted beyond our sight—

**C: and yet, not beyond our reach.**

L: Christ ascends into heaven—

**C: and yet, remains among us.**

L: Our hearts rise to meet him—

**C: and our feet are called to follow.**

L: Come, let us worship the One who rises—

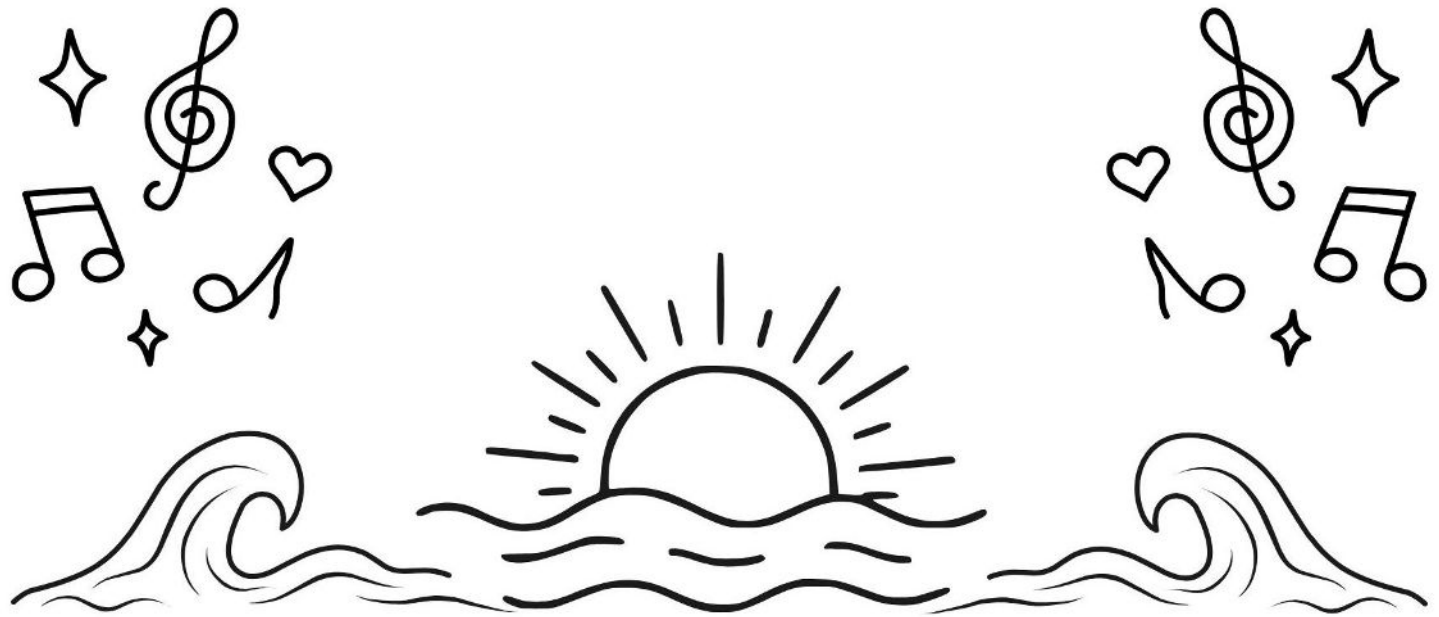
**C: and sends us out in love.**

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

**GATHERING PRAYER**

**OPENING HYMN** (see next two pages)

*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*



\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

# Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

William C. Dix, 1837-1898

Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the scep - ter, his the  
2. Al - le - lu - ia! Not as orphans Are we left in sor - row  
3. Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of hea ven, Here on earth our food, our  
4. Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o - tent we

throne;  
now;  
stay;  
own;

Al - le - lu - ia! His the triumph, His the vic - to - ry a -  
Al - le - lu - ia! He is near us; Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions  
Al - le - lu - ia! Here the sin - ful Flee to you from day to  
Al - le - lu - ia! Born of Ma - ry, Earth your foot - stool, heav'n your

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

- lone. how. day. throne. Hark! The Thought the In - ter - ces - sor, As with - in the songs of cloud from peace - ful sight re - ceived him friend of sin - ners, en - tered, Zi - on Thun - der like a for - ty deem - er, flesh, our

might - y flood: days were o'er, hear our great high plea priest, "Je - sus Shall our Where the Here on out of hearts for - get his songs of earth both ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - prom - ise: "I am sin - less Sweep a - vic - tim In the

- deemed us by his blood." with you ev - er - more"? - cross the crystal sea. eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

# HEARTS BEING STEADIED

## SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:44-49 (NRSV)

## REFLECTION #1

### \*PRAYER OF RESPONSE

L: Let us pray, God of promise,

**C: when we want to rush ahead, teach us how to wait. When we feel unsure, remind us that you are still at work. Lift our hearts before we move our feet, and prepare us for what comes next. Amen.**

### \*HYMN OF RESPONSE (see below)

*Be Thou My Vision* (vs. 1 & 2)

## Be Thou My Vision

Mary E. Byrne, 1905

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**Piano**  $\text{♩} = 80$

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a piano dynamic and a tempo marking of quarter note = 80. The melody consists of a series of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the staff, with line numbers 5, 10, and 15 indicating the start of new lines of music.

1. Be Thou my vi - sion O Lord of my heart.  
2. Be Thou my wis - dom and Thou my True Word.  
3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain em - pty praise,  
4. Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

5  
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art. Thou my best  
I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me Lord. Thou my soul's  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways: thou, and thou  
may I reach heav - en's joy, O heav - en's Sun! Heart of my

10  
thought by day and by night. Wa - king or sleep - ing Thy  
shel - ter thou my high tower, raise me Thou heav'n ward, O  
on - ly, first in my heart, great God of heav - en, my  
own heart, what - ev - er be - fall, still be my vi - sion, O

15  
pres - ence my light.  
Pow'r of my Pow'r.  
treas - ure thou art.  
Ru - ler of all.

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

## **\*CONFESSION: HEARTS MADE HONEST**

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

L: There's something about Ascension that can leave us feeling a little... in between. Like the disciples—not quite where we were, not quite sure where we're going. And in those in-between spaces, we don't always show up as our best selves. So we come before God now—not pretending we have it all figured out, but trusting that honesty is where grace begins.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: God of grace,

**C: sometimes we hold back when you are calling us forward and we cling to what is familiar. Sometimes we wait for certainty instead of trusting your presence and we hesitate, unsure of our next step. Sometimes we mistake your quiet for your absence and we forget that you are still with us.**

**Forgive us for the ways we stall, the ways we cling, and the ways we lose sight of your love. When our hearts wander and go astray from your ways-- Lift our hearts again, O God.**

### WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

L: Hear this good news: Christ has not left you behind. Christ goes ahead of you. Even in your uncertainty, even in your hesitation--you are held in grace. Your heart is being lifted. Your path is still unfolding. You are forgiven—we all are forgiven--and you are not alone.

**C: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.**

\*ACT OF PRAISE NCH NO. 23 (black hymnal, v. 1)

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

**ALL: There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea; there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty. There's no place where earthly sorrows are more felt than in God's heaven; there's no place where earthly failings have such kindly judgment given.**

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### **HEARTS LIFTED**

### SCRIPTURE

*Acts 1:1-11 (NRSV)*

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

**REFLECTION #2**

**\*PRAYER OF RESPONSE**

L: God on high,

**C: when we get stuck looking up, gently turn us forward. When we wait for perfect clarity, remind us that your Spirit is already at work. Lift our hearts—and give us courage to take the next step. Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE NCH NO. 198** (see below, black hymnal, vs. 3-5)

*Lift High the Cross*

# Lift High the Cross

Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 1916

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Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim; Let all adore and praise  
that a sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, fol - low where our Sav - ior  
2. Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci -  
3. O Christ, once lift - ed on the glo - rious  
4. Set up your throne, that earth's de - spair may  
5. So shall our song of tri - umphev - er

trod, the Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ the Child of God.  
-fied bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died.  
tree, your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.  
cease, be - neath the shad - ow of its heal - ing peace.  
be: praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

## HEARTS EXPANDED

### SCRIPTURE

*Ephesians 1:15-23 (NRSV)*

### REFLECTION #3

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: God who fills all things, we come to you with hearts that are still learning how to see. We are grateful for your presence in our lives—on days when we feel you close and on days when we need to know you are above us expanding your kin-dom. Here we open our expanding hearts to you as we name before you our joy aloud or in our hearts.

*(Pause for spoken joys)*

L: Thank you for the places in our lives where your presence feels clear—in these moments of joy, connection, and beauty.

L: But our lives aren't always joy-filled. When our hearts expand we also see more pain. So, we name to you now aloud or in our hearts--the places that feel uncertain—the spaces where we are waiting, wondering, or struggling to trust. And the people we hold close to our hearts

*(Pause for spoken concerns)*

L: Be present in all of it. In our homes and in our work. In our questions and in our hope. In the quiet moments and in the ones that overwhelm us. Continue expanding our hearts—so that we might recognize you not just in the extraordinary, but in the everyday. God of presence—

**C: Lift our hearts, and send us out. Amen.**

L: Please join me as we share together in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

**TIME FOR SHARING**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

*Come Thou Almighty King*

arr. Berry

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Christ our Savior who is not limited by space or time,

**C: take what we give today— these gifts, these offerings, these intentions— and use them to carry your love further than we can see. Where hearts need lifting, where lives need mending, where hope feels distant—let these gifts become part of your work. And as you send them out, send us too. Amen.**

**HYMN NO. 394 NCH** (black hymnal, see below)

*In Christ There is No East or West*

# In Christ There is No East or West (St. Peter)

John Oxenham, 1908

Alexander R. Reinagle, 1836

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*Piano*

$\text{♩} = 80$

1. In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or  
2. In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery-where their high com - mun - ion  
3. In Christ is nei - ther Jew nor Greek, and nei - ther slave nor  
4. In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and

North; But one com - mu - ni - ty of love through - out the whole wide earth.  
find; God's ser - vice is the gold - en cord close - binding hu - man - kind.  
free; For men and wom - en live in God, and all are kin to me.  
North; One joy - ous, true com - mu - ni - ty through - out the whole wide earth.

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

# FEET SET IN MOTION

## SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28:16-20 (NRSV)

## REFLECTION #4

### \*PRAYER RESPONSE

L: Equipping God,

**C: you call us forward even when we feel unsure. Give us courage for the next step—not the whole journey, just the step in front of us. Remind us that we do not go alone. That your presence meets us on the way. Lift our hearts. Guide our feet. And send us out in love. Amen.**

### \*SENDING HYMN NO. 2130 FWS (see below)

*The Summons*

# The Summons

John Bell

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**Piano**  $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name? \_\_\_ Will you  
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name? \_\_\_ Will you  
3. Will you let the blind-ed see if I but call your name? \_\_\_ Will you  
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name? \_\_\_ Will you  
5. Lord, your sum-mons ech-oes true when you but call my name. \_\_\_ Let me

10  
go where you don't know and never be the same? \_\_\_ Will you let my love be shown,  
care for cruel and kind and never be the same? \_\_\_ Will you risk the hos - tile stare,  
set the prisoners free and never be the same? \_\_\_ Will you kiss the le - per clean,  
quell the fear in - side and never be the same? \_\_\_ Will you use the faith you've found,  
turn and fol - low you and never be the same. \_\_\_ In your com - pa - ny I'll go

21  
\_\_\_ will you let my name be known, \_\_\_ will you let my life be grown in you and  
\_\_\_ should your life at - tract or scare? \_\_\_ Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and  
\_\_\_ and do such as this un - seen, \_\_\_ and ad - mit to what I mean in you and  
\_\_\_ to re - shape the world a - round, \_\_\_ through my sight and touch and sound in you and  
\_\_\_ where your love and foot-steps show. \_\_\_ Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and

30  
you in me? \_\_\_  
you in me? \_\_\_  
you in me? \_\_\_  
you in me? \_\_\_  
you in me. \_\_\_

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

## **\*BENEDICTION**

L: As we are steadied in waiting, and reminded of God's promises—

**C: Our hearts rise with Christ, and our feet will follow.**

L: As we are re-directed from looking up, and gently called to move forward—

**C: Our hearts rise with Christ, and our feet will follow.**

L: As we discover Christ present in all things, filling even the ordinary moments of our lives—

**C: Our hearts rise with Christ, and our feet will follow.**

L: As we are sent now into the world, to love, to serve, and to trust the next step—

**C: Our hearts rise with Christ, and our feet will follow.**

L: So go—with hearts lifted, and feet ready. Go in the presence of Christ, who is above all, through all, and in all. And may you know—wherever you go, you do not go alone.

Amen.

## **POSTLUDE**

*Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise*

arr. Berry

### **Service Participants**

Thank you to the worship choir for enhancing the service with their talents this morning.

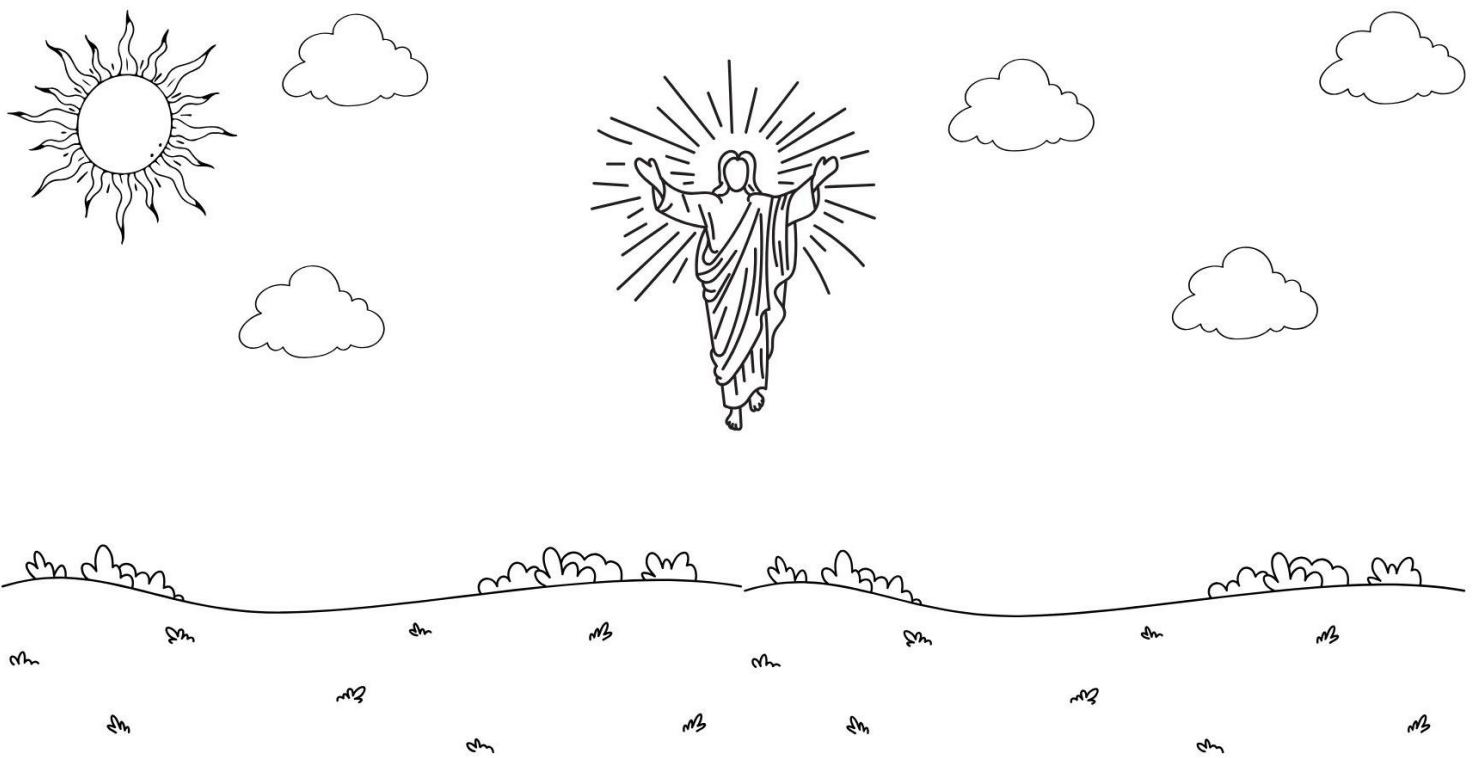
**Welcome Team Members**— Rick & Cindy Hogentogler

**Service Leader**— Deb Herlocker

**Liturgist**— Jen Miller

**Tech Team**— Jack Herlocker, John Kollasch

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.



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