



# Westminster Presbyterian Church

May 12, 2024  
Ascension Sunday

PRELUDE "How Majestic Is Your Name" arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME

MUSIC FOR PREPARATION "Pass It On" arr. Mark Hayes  
*You may come forward and light a candle to represent the prayer you bring today.*

INTROIT "From the Sun's Rising" #25 (*Lift Up Your Hearts*)

***From the sun's rising unto the sun's setting,  
Jesus our Lord shall be great in the earth;  
And all earth's kingdoms shall be his dominion,  
All of creation shall sing of his worth.***

*Refrain Let ev'ry heart, ev'ry voice, ev'ry tongue join with spirits ablaze.  
One in his love, we will circle the world with the song of his praise.  
O let all his people rejoice, and let all the earth hear his voice.*

***To ev'ry tongue, tribe, and nation he sends us,  
To make disciples, to teach and baptize.  
For all authority to him is given;  
Now as his witnesses we shall arise. Refrain***

***Come let us join with the church from all nations,  
Cross ev'ry border, throw wide ev'ry door;  
Workers with him as he gathers his harvest,  
Till earth's far corners our Savior adore. Refrain***

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 113

Praise the Lord!

**Praise, O servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord!**

Blessed be the name of the Lord,

**Now and forever!**

From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

The Lord is high above all nations;

**God's glory is above the heavens.**

Let us praise the Lord!

\*HYMN

"Praise the Lord, God's Glories Show"

#481 (Hymnal)

***Praise the Lord, God's glories, show, Alleluia!  
Saints within God's courts below, Alleluia!  
Angels round the throne above, Alleluia!  
All that see and share God's love. Alleluia!***

***Earth to heav'n and heav'n to earth, Alleluia!  
Tell the wonders, sing God's worth, Alleluia!  
Age to age and shore to shore, Alleluia!  
Praise God, praise forevermore! Alleluia!***

***Praise the Lord, great mercies trace, Alleluia!  
Praise this providence and grace, Alleluia!  
All that God for us has done, Alleluia!  
All God sends us through the Son. Alleluia!***

PRAYER

Great and loving God, we who gather in worship are also persons who sometimes feel alone, who wonder if you have left us to fend for ourselves. When life is difficult, we find it hard to discern your presence, even as we rely upon it.

**Encourage us, O God, when we doubt your promise to be with us always. As we worship, grant us the gifts of discernment and hope. Enable us to recognize your grace within the ordinary happenings of our lives, and your Spirit at work in the world. Open us to faith, and help us to perceive not only what is, but also, by your power, might be. Let the love of Jesus rule in us, we pray. Fill us with your power that by truthful words, just actions, and shared life we may witness to the risen Christ. God of life, in whom we live and move and have our being, we worship you. Amen.**

\*RESPONSE

"Glory to God"

*Paul Vasile; used by permission*

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free,  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, Amen.  
World without end, without end, Amen.  
World without end, without end, Amen.  
World without end, without end, Amen.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

ANTHEM

"The Prayer of Mother Teresa"

music by Craig Courtney

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 1:1-11

SERMON

"Absence Becoming Presence"

Pastor Janet

HYMN

"I Come with Joy" verses 1-3

#507 (Hymnal)

**I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven loved, and free,  
In awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me,  
His life laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near, to find, as all are fed,  
The new community of love in Christ's communion bread,  
In Christ's communion bread.**

**As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.  
The love that made us makes us one, and strangers now are friends,  
And strangers now are friends.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION MUSIC

Untitled

Heather Sorenson

PRAYER OF PRAISE

**Gracious God, you have welcomed us and fed us with the bread of life. Help us who have been nurtured at this table to be Christ's faithful disciples, so that our daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom, and our love be your love reaching out into the life of the world, in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

\*HYMN

"I Come with Joy" verses 4-5

#507 (*Hymnal*)

***And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near,  
Is in such friendship better known: We see and praise him here,  
We see and praise him here.***

***Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways,  
And as his people in the world, we'll live and speak his praise,  
We'll live and speak his praise.***

\*BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE

"Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart"

#114 (*Sing the Faith*)

***Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. (repeat)***

***And now let the weak say "I am strong;" let the poor say, "I am rich"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us. (repeat)***

***Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks.***

POSTLUDE

"Love of Jesus Medley"

arr. Mark Hayes