

# *Trinity Church Welcomes You*

## **Ascension of Our Lord**

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Pastor Priscilla Hukki

\*Indicates standing as you are able.

**Bold indicates “in unison”.**

**PRELUDE**

**LIGHTING THE CANDLES**

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

(Responsive)

Easter people, Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Christ *is* risen indeed! Yet we, like Thomas, may find questions bubbling up: How do we know? What’s the proof? Is Resurrection real?

**Within our questioning, Christ appears.**

We may find ourselves like the other disciples, witnesses of Christ’s resurrection who struggle to understand the doubt of others.

**Within our certainty, Christ appears.**

Whether you come to worship full of certainty or doubt, you are welcome here, for we are all participants in the story of God’s salvific work in the world, a story still unfolding all around us.

**We gather to worship, believing that in certainty and doubt, the resurrected Christ dwells among us! Amen.**

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2025.*

**\*OPENING HYMN** *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name* UMH #154

1. All hail the power of Jesus’ name!

Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem,  
and crown him Lord of all.

Bring forth the royal diadem,  
and crown him Lord of all.

2. Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,  
ye ransomed from the fall,  
hail him who saves you by his grace,  
and crown him Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace,  
and crown him Lord of all.

3. Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget  
the wormwood and the gall,  
go spread your trophies at his feet,  
and crown him Lord of all.  
Go spread your trophies at his feet,  
and crown him Lord of all.

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## OPENING PRAYER

God of the risen Jesus, we praise you for the great love that you have shown to redeem us by sending your Son, Jesus. Help us today to embrace the New Life that the resurrected Christ is giving us. A Life beyond our doubts, faith over fear, courage over confusion, belief over disbelief, and trust to follow your guidance. As we worship today, help us to feel the presence of resurrected Jesus in our midst, reminding us of your love and our purpose. Amen.

*Written by Rev. Vinod Wesley and posted on the Worship Ways (United Church of Christ) website at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter-2a-april-16/>.*

## FIRST READING

*Acts 1: 1-11*

[Luke writes:] <sup>1</sup> In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach <sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

God’s Word for God’s People

## PSALM

*Psalm 47*

(read responsively)

<sup>1</sup> Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a joyful sound.

<sup>2</sup> **For the LORD Most High is to be feared: a great king over all the earth,**

<sup>3</sup> who subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet;

<sup>4</sup> **who chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**

<sup>5</sup> God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of the ram’s horn.

<sup>6</sup> **Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

<sup>7</sup> For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with a song.

<sup>8</sup> **God reigns over the nations; God is enthroned on high.**

<sup>9</sup> The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham. The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

## SECOND READING

*Ephesians 1: 15-23*

<sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup> so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup> God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated

him at his right hand in the heavenly places,<sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.<sup>22</sup> And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,<sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

God's Word for God's People

**\*GOSPEL READING**

*Luke 24: 44-53*

<sup>44</sup> [Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,<sup>46</sup> and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day<sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.<sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.<sup>49</sup> And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup> Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.<sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.<sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,<sup>53</sup> and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord

**SERMON**

Pastor Priscilla

**HYMN**

*He Is Exalted*

TFWS #2070

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.

## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

God's mercy is deeper than the depths of the sea, and God's grace is wider than the whole of the earth. Trusting in that mercy and that grace, let us make our confession, before God and each other, first in silent prayer.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day, and offer the truth of our lives:**

**The fear that stifles us,**

**The prejudice that impedes us,**

**The ignorance that hinders us,**

**The doubt that plagues us.**

**Help us, we pray, that we will**

**Find courage in unlikely places,**

**Move to those places where love is needed,**

**And have faith that you are with us.**

**This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Hear the Good News: we are forgiven! We are set free to go out into the world and be the loving, gracious, hopeful people of God! **Alleluia!**

**Amen.**

*Adapted from Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good.' Used with permission. Posted at <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession>.*

## OFFERING

We appreciate your support of the work of the church through your tithes and offerings. Please place all offerings in the plate by the entrance to the sanctuary or you may use the QR code found on the back of the bulletin.

**\*OFFERING** *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH #95

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.

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## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Compassionate and faithful God, you meet us behind locked doors and in the doubts, we dare not speak aloud. Like Thomas, we long to see, to touch, to know—and yet, by your grace, you call us blessed for believing without seeing. Accept now these gifts we bring, signs of our faith, acts of our trust. Use them to reach others still searching for hope, healing, and connection. Let our giving testify to your Resurrection power and shape us into a community where wounds are not hidden but held with love. In Christ, who breathes peace upon us, we pray. Amen.**

*(John 20:19-31)*

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### 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 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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The table is set for you. If you are hungry, tired, weary, or worn, or joyful or full, or care free, there is space for you here. Come, the bread of life and the cup of blessing await you. The body and blood of Christ given for you. Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**O Lord, you look upon us in love and refresh our souls through the gifts of bread and wine. Send us out, witnesses of your grace, to tell the story of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior. Amen.**

### \*HYMN

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

UMH #154

4. Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball,  
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.  
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.
  
5. Crown him, ye martyrs of your God, who from his altar call,  
extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod, and crown him Lord of all.  
Extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod, and crown him Lord of all.
  
6. O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.  
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.

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## BENEDICTION

May God bless you with open hearts to recognize the resurrected Christ in our midst and with the courage to reach out and touch the wounds of our neighbors. May God +Father, Son & Holy Spirit fill you with peace, hold you in love, send you out with joy. Amen.

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