

## ORDER OF WORSHIP – May 21, 2023

ASCENSION RING

Joseph D'Eugenio

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. James Campbell

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Tracy Tyree

*(written by Christine Sine, amended)*

One: Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, a new world has broken into ours—

**All: A world in which justice does come for the poor, freedom comes for the prisoners, and healing for the sick.**

One: Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, a new community has been formed—

**All: A community that loves and cares for all members, a family that welcomes all who are abandoned and rejected, a place where all find belonging.**

One: Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, a new creation has begun—

**All: All that was distorted is being restored, all that is corrupted is being renewed, all that was broken is being made whole.**

One: Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God,

**All: God's new world has begun.**

\*GATHERING PRAYER

One: The Ascended One be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ,

We do not know the face of the future, any more than your disciples did on the day you left. Like them, we have many questions: How will we live? How will we overcome our fears? How will we believe what we can no longer see? Like them, we thirst for your Spirit to call our troubled spirits, to inspire us in our living and to give us a heart full of faith.

**All: Lord Jesus Christ,**

**You have been raised in glory, that we might rise with dignity. You live in power that we might live in peace. You are present everywhere, so that we might be fully present in our own lives. You will give us all we need when we need it. This we hope. This we trust. This we believe. Amen.**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE

Alleluia, Sing to Jesus, 320

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: Let us join hearts and voices in affirming our faith:

**All: We believe in a bright and amazing God, who has been to the depths of despair on our behalf; who has risen in splendor and majesty; who decorates the universe with sparkling water, clear light, twinkling stars and sharp colors, over and over again.**

We believe that Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God. This same Jesus now intercedes for us, sending us into the world with the power of the Holy Spirit.

We commit ourselves to Jesus, to one another as sisters and brothers, and to the Maker's business on this earth: love and laughter, peace and justice. Amen.

\*GLORIA

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us exchange words and signs of peace

*After Sharing the Peace, children will leave for Church School downstairs. First time visitors, please accompany your child.*

*At the conclusion of Worship, please pick-up your child(ren) from their Church School classroom.*

THE SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

The Rev. Dr. James Campbell  
Tracy Tyree  
Connor Rayball, Confirmation Class of 2023

Everett Hudson Egan, child of Michael and Caitlin Egan

Godparents: Kerry Simon, Hilary Rose, Justin Egan, Kevin DeAngelo

Jack Madden Luchenne, child of Michael and Lauren Luchenne

Godparents: Lori Lopes and Jonathan Dickman

**Congregational Response:**

Affirming our unity with Christ and on behalf of the Body of Christ around the world, we joyfully accept our responsibility to support the baptized with constant love, Christian example, and faithful prayer.

CALL TO OFFERING

Todd Skrzyniarz

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ANTHEM

R.V. Williams

At the Name of Jesus  
Sung by "Music with Friends"

\*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 24:44-53

Then he said to 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." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 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, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all

nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. 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." Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

**\*GOSPEL RESPONSE**

One: For the Word of God in Scripture -  
For the Word of God among us -  
For the Word of God within us -

All: Thanks be to God.

**SERMON**

Up, Up and Away!

The Rev. Dr. James Campbell

**\*HYMN**

Christ Has No Body Now but Yours

*D. Ogden*

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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.

**SUNG RESPONSE**

*Music: G. Whelpton*

**LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY**

**\*HYMN**

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise, 323

**\*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**

*Flowers are from Beth and Kevin Ross in loving memory of their parents,  
Jim and Bernice Ross and George and Ethel Giering*