

Christ Church United Methodist

May 21, 2023

(in-person) 9 am
(live-streamed & in-person) 11:15 am

Seventh Sunday of Easter Ascension Sunday / Senior Blessing Sunday Order of Worship

WELCOME

Rev. Leigh Ann Maynard

PRELUDE

The Church's One Foundation
◇ Celebration Ringers

arr. Kurt Meyer

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Open our minds, Lord, so we may understand the scriptures.

People: Let the truth of your Word set us free.

Leader: Open our eyes, Lord, so we may see you, high and lifted up.

People: Let the power of your Spirit give us strength.

Leader: Open our hearts, Lord, so we may experience your presence.

People: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

Hymn 312

Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!
To his throne above the skies, Alleluia!
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluia!
Reascends his native heaven, Alleluia!

There the glorious triumph waits, Alleluia!
Lift your heads, eternal gates, Alleluia!
Christ hath conquered death and sin, Alleluia!
Take the King of glory in, Alleluia!

See! the heaven its Lord receives, Alleluia!
Yet he loves the earth he leaves, Alleluia!
Though returning to his throne, Alleluia!
Still he calls the world his own, Alleluia!

See! he lifts his hands above, Alleluia!
See! he shows the prints of love, Alleluia!
Hark! his gracious lips bestow, Alleluia!
Blessings on his church below, Alleluia!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: This is the good news which we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

**People: Christ died for our sins,
was buried,
was raised on the third day,
and appeared first to the women,**

then to Peter and the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.
We believe Jesus is the Christ,
the Anointed One of God,
the firstborn of all creation,
the firstborn from the dead,
in whom all things hold together,
in whom the fullness of God
was pleased to dwell
by the power of the Spirit.
Christ is the head of the body, the church,
and by the blood of the cross
reconciles all things to God. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Hymn 139

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly forever adore him.

BAPTISMAL COVENANT (11:15)

Amber Kristine Tharp (9/12/1997)

Paisley Jane Harden (3/29/2020) and Braxton Richard Harden (5/11/2022) children of Amber Tharp and Bryan Harden.

Pastor: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include
Amber, Paisley, Braxton and Bryan now before you in your care?

People: With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according
to the example of Christ. We will surround them with a community of love and forgiveness, that they
may grow in their service to others. We will pray for them that they may be a true disciple who walks in
the way that leads to life.

Pastor: Members of the household of faith, I commend to your love and care
Amber, Paisley and Braxton, whom we this day recognize as members of the family of God. Will you endeavor
so to live that they may grow in the knowledge and love of God, through our Savior Jesus Christ?

People: With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ
that Amber, Paisley, Braxton and Bryan, surrounded by steadfast love,
may be established in the faith and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE

Hymn 609

You have put on Christ, in Christ you have been baptized.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO PRAYER

Open My Eyes

Hymn 454

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

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.

OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC

9:00

I Know That My Redeemer Liveth (from Messiah)
Erin Cornett, solo; Shawn Dawson, organ

G.F. Handel

‡11:15

God Is Gone Up
Chancel Choir

Gerald Finzi

*DOXOLOGY

Hymn 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the sources of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:44-53

(9:00) Bill Higgs
(11:15) Dana Faulkner

SERMON

What Do We Do Now?

Rev. Dr. Eric Bryant

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP AND HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR BLESSING

Congregation's Blessing

May this blanket remind you of the security you always have with you in the love of your family, God and faith community. You wear it now as a stole, a symbol of the life of ministry to which God calls you and to which we send you. May the warmth of this blanket, the love of your parents, the grace of God, the peace of Christ, the power of the Spirit and the fellowship and support of the Church be with you now and forever. Go with God's blessing.

*CLOSING HYMN

Christ for the World We Sing
Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring,
with loving zeal; the poor, and them that mourn,
the faint and overborne, sin-sick and sorrow-worn,
whom Christ doth heal.

Hymn 568

Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring,
with fervent prayer; the wayward and the lost,
by restless passions tossed, redeemed at countless cost,
from dark despair.

Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring,
with one accord; with us the work to share,
with us reproach to dare, with us the cross to bear,
for Christ our Lord.

Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring,
with joyful song; the newborn souls, whose days,
reclaimed from error's ways, inspired with hope and praise,
to Christ belong.

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Fugue in D Major, BWV 532
Shawn Dawson, organ

J.S. Bach

◇ Shawn Dawson, conductor

‡ Dr. Daniel Blosser, conductor; Shawn Dawson, organ

***Announcements are located on the following pages*

THIS MORNING

The flowers on the altar are provided in loving memory of Virginia Fox and Hallie Hymer by Steve and Janet Hymer.

High School Senior Blessing Sunday

May 21, 2023

Today we recognize our high school seniors and their parents in this important milestone and time of transition in their lives. Blessings will be exchanged between seniors and their parents, and seniors will receive a symbolic blanket. As a church family, we celebrate with them and affirm their faithfulness to their baptismal vows. We also bless our seniors as they go from being nurtured as disciples to being sent as disciples, to serve in whatever setting God calls them, to transform the world by *becoming living proof of God's love, one person at a time.*

2023 High School Seniors

Seniors

Grace Madelynn Ashkettle
Allan Lloyd Bagley
Wesley Beard
Will C. Becker
Liam Davis
Levi Joseph Lucas
Caroline McKnight
Jane Kathryn McLeroy
Jane Pollitte Moore
John Henry Moses
Adam David Pearson
Aiden Hardwick Pfeiffer
Mary Charles Robison
Ellen Clay Stinnett
Adam Richard Stoflet
Jack C. Thompson

Parents

Lynn and Ricki Ashkettle
Scott and Cindy Bagley
Swain and Ginger Beard
Bill and Lisa Becker
Jeff and Tricia Davis
Brandon and Valerie Lucas
Jay and Stacy McKnight
Andy and Andi McLeroy
Robert and Leigh Moore
John and Carol Moses
Randal and Lynn Pearson
Brett and Vanessa Pfeiffer
Brad and Ellen Robison
Clay and Loren Stinnett
Rich and Lisa Stoflet
Chris and Allison Thompson

Grandparents*

Barbara Smoot

Carol Kemp

Mary Powers
Myra and Bill Stinnett

Spiritual Practice: Hearing God's Word

Weekly Sermon Companion

Sunday, May 21

Luke 24:44-53

HIGHLIGHTED VERSES

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. Luke 24:44 (NRSV)

- *“remember my telling you that everything written about me... must all come true” (TLB)*

“all things written about Me in the Law of Moses and in the Books of the early preachers and in the Psalms must happen as they said they would happen” (NLV)

Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, Luke 24:45 (NRSV)

- *“he went on to open their understanding of the Word of God” (MSG)*
- *“Jesus helped the followers understand these Scriptures about him” (ERV)*

You are witnesses of these things. Luke 24:48 (NRSV)

- *“you saw these things happen” (ERV)*
- *“you have seen these prophecies come true” (TLB)*

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. Luke 24:49 (NRSV)

- *“listen! My Father has promised you something; I will send it to you” (ICB)*
- *“stay in the city until you receive it—until power from heaven comes upon you” (VOICE)*

NOTES

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME THROUGH TODAY'S MESSAGE?

Weekly Bible Study

Week of May 21 - 27

DAILY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord, so many vital elements of our Christian faith are included in this passage—your death and resurrection, our need for repentance, your gift of forgiveness, the promise of the Holy Spirit. Help me feast on the richness of your Word this week. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Monday, May 22

Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day. Luke 24:46

Even though the Lord's death and resurrection had already taken place, he reminded his disciples yet again what the scriptures had foretold—that Christ “must suffer his passing and come back to life” (OJB). How does it also benefit us to consider, again and again, the truth of his atoning death and resurrection?

Tuesday, May 22

and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. Luke 24:47

Jesus called his followers to spread the good news—“forgiveness of sins for all who repent” (NLT)—starting right where they lived. It's one thing to invite someone to church; what might happen if you invited someone to “turn to God” (CEV) and experience “a change of heart and life” (CEB)?

Wednesday, May 24

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. Luke 24:50

The last thing Jesus did before he ascended into heaven was speak a blessing over his disciples. In what ways is a blessing different than a prayer? How could you intentionally “invoke a blessing” (AMPC) over the people you care about?

Thursday, May 25

And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,

Luke 24:52

First the disciples “bowed in worship to him” (CJB), and then they “turned back to Jerusalem” (Phillips), obeying the Lord's command to wait in the city. How does worship prepare our hearts and minds to be both willing and obedient?

Friday, May 26

and they were continually in the temple blessing God. Luke 24:53

Christ had just departed from their midst, yet his people were “bursting with joy” (MSG). How might you explain their elation, “celebrating with praises and blessing and extolling God” (AMPC), even though he was no longer physically with them?

Saturday, May 27

Pray first, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you and teach you, then read tomorrow's Scripture passage in preparation for Sunday's worship service.

Acts 2:1-21

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday, May 28, is **Pentecost** Sunday, when we commemorate the arrival of the Holy Spirit as told in the book of Acts! In celebration of this important event, we **invite everyone to wear red**.

Administrative Council Meeting | Sunday, June 25 | 12:30 pm | Room 158

All Ad Council members are asked to attend our next Ad Council meeting on June 25. All church members are welcome to attend.

As a gift to our congregation, **our 2023 Confirmation Class would like to pray for our congregation** during the month of May. Please email Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley, leanne@ccum.net, with any requests and she will share them with our 2023 Confirmands. This is a prayerful group of young people. We are blessed!

Honoring Lisa Watkins' Service

Throughout her 14 years of dedicated ministry on staff, as well as many more as a volunteer, Lisa has faithfully served Christ Church and touched many lives with her generous and caring spirit. Join us as we show our appreciation for Lisa and wish her well in retirement:

- Reception: Today, Sunday, May 21 at 12:30 pm in Fellowship Hall
- Love Offering through ccum.net/give or via check with "Lisa Watkins love Offering" in the memo
 - o Deadline Wednesday, May 31

One Voice Homecoming Concert | Sunday, June 11 | 7 pm

Come and hear these fabulous youth sing and share stories from their choir tour in Tennessee and North Carolina!

College Graduate Recognition | Sunday, June 4

Christ Church would like to recognize our recent college graduates in the bulletin on Sunday, June 4. Please provide your information at ccum.net/collegegrad. Deadline is May 28.

Praying with Jesus: Summer Adult Study with Liz Curtis Higgs | Tuesdays June 13, 20, and 27 | 10 - 11 am | Room 158
Since our VBS kids will spend a week in July learning all the places Jesus prayed, we'll spend **three Tuesday mornings in June on our own prayer adventure with the Lord**, discovering where, when, and how spoke with his heavenly Father. Register at ccum.net/classes.

Choir Tour 2023 registration is now OPEN!

One Voice and HS Handbells will be singing, ringing and serving in Asheville and Nashville June 7 - 11. This tour is **open to all youth, 8-12th grades**. Sign-up now at <http://www.ccum.net/youthmusic>!

VBS 2023: Praying Every Day, Everywhere | July 10 - 13 | 9 am - 12 pm

Join us this summer as we search for Jesus and discover how to live a prayer-filled life along the way! **Registration is at capacity for PreK's and K's - but there are still spots left for 1st - 5th graders!, as well as for volunteers**. Sign up at ccum.net/vbs.

Members of the Racial Justice Team are **sharing books** from prior book discussions as well as books from their personal collections. **Visit the "Just Reads" shelf in the CCUM Library** to explore titles that may be of interest to you. These books **will be available for your use until June 30** and then will be returned to their respective owners.

Youth Sponsored Summer Mission Trip | June 21 - 25

This summer we will be **heading to Eastern Kentucky** to help with the long-term flood recovery and rebuilding efforts. The trip will be coordinated through UMCOR and a recovery group of the Kentucky Conference. This **intergenerational mission trip** is open to all ages! The cost is \$75 per person. For more information, please contact Mike Porter. Register at ccum.net/mission23.

Men's Morning Coffee | Tuesdays | 7 - 8 am | Fellowship Hall

We invite you to come join other men on Tuesday mornings anytime between 7 - 8 am. **Stop in grab a coffee and donut**, connect/reconnect with old and new friends and listen to a short devotional.

Men's Ministry: Just for Men | Wednesdays at 7:30 am via Zoom

Join Rev. Mike Porter, Director of Men's Ministries and Discipleship, as he shares scripture and discussion for men during these trying times. Drop-in to our weekly gathering. If interested, please email katie@ccum.net to be sent the Zoom link.