



# The Worship of the Lord

Ascension Sunday

May 21, 2023

## Gathering Music

### Chiming of the Trinity

*(Worship begins with the Voluntary. Please use this time to enjoy the sacred music and to prepare your heart and mind for an encounter with God.)*

### Voluntary

Karen Sawyer and Clyde Patterson  
*Fairest Lord Jesus* arr. Smith/Hustad

### Greeting & Announcements

Rev. J. Kenneth Byrd, Jr.

### New Testament Reading: Acts 1:1-11

BEDE (C. 672 – 735 AD), **Lover of God:**

Theophilus means lover of God or beloved of God.

Therefore, anyone who is a lover of God may believe that this work was written for him, because the physician Luke wrote it in order that the reader might find health for his soul. Note also that he says, “all that Jesus began to do and teach,” first “do” and then “teach,” because Jesus, establishing the pattern of a good teacher, taught nothing except those things which he did.  
*COMMENTARY ON THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 1.1.*

### Call to Worship

Christ is Risen!  
**He is Risen Indeed!**

We celebrate the Lord and King!  
Let the earth rejoice!  
May the heavens declare His glory.  
In our worship, we exalt Him above all others.

### \*Hymn of Praise

*(6) Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* ST. DENIO

### Psalter Reading: Psalm 93

Jack Sieber

### An Invocation & 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.*

### \*Offertory Hymn

*(406) The Solid Rock*

SOLID ROCK

### \*Offertory Prayer

*(Offering plates are placed in the Narthex where you may give as you feel led.)*

Sandra Manning

### \*An Easter Doxology

LAST UNS ERFREUEN

### A Time with Children

*(Children preschool-3rd grade are invited to Children’s Church)*

### Congregational Chorus

*(499) Open Our Eyes, Lord*

OPEN OUR EYES

### Joys/Concerns of the Community

Rev. Byrd

### Epistle Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

### A Call to Prayer

The word of God speaks to our hearts.

*Silent reflection*

The word of God speaks of His love.

*Silent reflection*

The word of God speaks of the Savior.

*Silent reflection*

The word of God speaks to this church.

*Silent reflection*

May God give us a spirit of love to share in the world as we come to know Christ. Lord, hear our prayers and help us to know the glorious hope found in Your word...

### Pastoral Prayer

### Worship Through Music

Blaine Pittman and Karen Sawyer

*Jesus, Name of Wondrous Love*

Linda Wells

### Sharing in God’s Word

Rev. Byrd

***How Then Shall We Live:  
What is My Gift to Share with the World?***  
Emphasis Text: Luke 24:44-53

### \*Hymn of Commitment

*(450) I Need Thee Every Hour*

(stanzas 1 and 5)

NEED

### \*Expressions of Decisions

### \*Sending Forth

CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA (375 – 444 AD),

***Creating a New Pathway for Us:*** Having blessed them and gone ahead a little, he was carried up into heaven so that he might share the Father’s throne even with the flesh that was united to him. The Word made this new pathway for us when he appeared in human form. After this, and in due time, he will come again in the glory of his Father with the angels and will take us up to be with him. Let us glorify him.

*COMMENTARY ON LUKE, CHAPTER 24.*

As people of faith we have gathered for worship.

**As people of faith we now return to the world.**

Go out to share the story of faith,  
the story of life, with the world around you.

Share in word and in deed, in speech and in action.

As you go out to give a living witness,  
as you go out to testify to God’s love active in the world,  
go knowing that God goes with you,  
sharing the laughter and the hope, the fears and the tears.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### \*Response

*(178) He Is Lord*  
(refrain)

HE IS LORD

### \*Chiming of the Trinity

### Postlude

Clyde Patterson

*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

arr. Paul Manz

*\*Congregation stands, who are able*

All scripture readings are from *The Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version.*

## **The Ministry of Worship**

The Rev. J. Kenneth Byrd, Jr., Pastor  
Blaine Pittman, Director of Music and Education  
Karen Sawyer, Church Musician  
Clyde Patterson, Organist

## **Today**

**Deacons:** Jack Sieber & Sandra Manning  
**Children’s Church:** Kelle Joyner  
**Nursery:** Mallory Joyner

## Member Prayer Request:

Tim Bartholomew	Weedie Hayes	Donald & Pat Parker
Martha Crowell	Eric Jeffreys	Clark Rounds
Doodle Daniels	Sue Jenkins	Melba White

## Prayer On Behalf of Members:

Harrison Barnett	Linda Frazier	Donnie Manning
Gerald Butler	Rudy Frazier	Family of
Pam Butler	Joel Freeman	Royce Pittman
John Byrd	Sarah George	Maryanne Davis Powell
Veda Byrd	Gerald Hale	Vickie Sanders
Brenda Caldwell	Allen Hinnant	David Sawyer
Faye Carter	Julie Johnson Baker	Carl & Kathy Smith
John Chamblee	Vickie Hyde Jones	Rudy Viverette
Debbie Edwards	Family of Linda Keen	Robert Ward
	J.R. McPherson	Trudy Womack

*In an effort to keep our prayer list current,  
we will place names on the prayer list for a two week period.  
If you wish for a name to remain longer than two weeks,  
please contact the church office.*

## Nan Strickland Flower Ministry to Homebound:

Donations to this ongoing ministry should be designated as Missions/Flower Ministry.

The next opportunity to assist with flower arranging and delivery is **Friday, May 26, 2023 at 10 a.m.** in the fellowship hall.

## Homebound & Nursing Home Ministry:

Wilbur Batchelor	Beulah Hudson	Pat Parker
Patsy Carty	Annie Jackson	Edith Skinner
Martha Crowell	Bill Joyner	Reba Turner
Doris Fisher	June Joyner	Melba White
Weedie Hayes	Donald Parker	

## Card Ministry to the Homebound:

Each week, we rotate the names of two homebound members as part of our Card Ministry Outreach. Please consider sending a card or handwritten note to the following two members:

**Doris Fisher**

**Weedie Hayes**

We appreciate you reaching out to members who are no longer able to worship with us in person!

## 2023 Financial Summary for 20 Weeks

Financial information is not share online.

## TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of Acie Brown by Janice Brown.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023**  
JUNE 5-8 ~ 9 A.M. - 12 P.M. | K - 5TH GRADE

Craft items needed: plastic grocery bags & 12 oz or smaller glass jars with lids.  
Please place items on the desk in the Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers are needed in all areas ~ snacks, crafts, leaders, and more!  
Contact Blaine to help.

## Graduation Sunday June 11, 2023

During the service, we celebrate all high school & college graduates. If a student would like to walk & be recognized, please let the church office know: full name (first, middle, last), school the student is graduating from & future plans by Wednesday, May 31.



## May Mission Emphasis



## Urgent Need Items:

laundry detergent	diapers size 5 & 6
Swiffer items	shampoo
cleaning supplies	lotion
Clorox wipes	paper towels
glass cleaner	dish soap
wrapped snacks	bath towels

Donations can be made through May 28 in the laundry baskets in the Fellowship Hall or Narthex.



## How Then Shall We Live:

What is My Gift to Share with the World?

*Item of the Month*  
**May**  
**Canned Ham, Dried Beans & Canned Greens**