******

**Ascension of the Lord**

May 16, 2021

******

*Ascension*, Mural on Graffiti Wall; Bristol, England

C.J. Briggs, Music Director

Julie Lehmann, Secretary

John Bair, Liturgist

Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

*“The Ascension is a festival of the future of the world’”*

***~***Karl Rahner

***~ Gathering ~***

**Gathering Music**

**Litany for Ascension of the Lord** *(Repeated)*

…Lift up your hearts.   
**We lift them to the Lord.**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude** Fantasia in G Dorian SwWV270

by Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

**Call to Worship** *(Based on Psalm 47)*

Clap your hands, all you peoples;   
 shout to God with loud songs of joy.

**For the Holy One, the Most High, is awesome,**

**a great sovereign over all the earth.**

God has gone up with a shout,   
 the Lord with the sounds of a trumpet.

**Sing praises to the Holy One, sing praises;   
 sing praise to our God, sing praises.**

For God is the sovereign of all the earth;   
 sing praises with a psalm.

**Come, let us worship God.**

**Hymn** At the Name of Jesus GTG #261

by Caroline Maria Noelking’s weston

##### Children’s Moment The Good News Desmond Tutu

##### from the “Children of God Storybook Bible” (Acts 1)

*Children may be dismissed to Sunday School.*

**Pouring of the Baptismal Waters**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world, and failed to give him glory. Forgive us, and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body.** *[Time of Silent Confession]*

**Response** Be Not AfraidGTG #243

Taizé Community and Jacques Berthier be not afraid

**Assurance of Pardon**

The God of all grace, who calls us to eternal glory in Jesus Christ, will restore, support, and strengthen us.   
**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.**

**Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

**Alleluia** Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!GTG #591

Caribbean melody; arr. by John L. Bell halle halle

***~ The Word ~***

##### Prayer of Illumination

**First Reading** Luke 24:44-53 (NRSV)

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God’s people.   
**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 47** Peoples, Clap Your Hands! GTG #261

by Joy F. Patterson genevan 47

**Second Reading** Acts 1:1-11 (NRSV)

**Sermon**  Rev. Wigger

**Affirmation of Faith** *(from 1 Cor. 15, Mk 16, Mt 16, Rev. 22, Jn 20)*

**This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

***~ Responding to the Word ~***

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Response** DoxologyGTG #606

Words by Thomas Ken old hundredth

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Prayers of the People**

***~ SENDING ~***

**Hymn** Our God Is an Awesome God GTG #616

By Rich Mullens

**Benediction** *(Based on Psalm 47)*

**Postlude** Fugue in C Major BuxWV174

Dietrich Buxtehude

*Coffee and tea are available in the gathering room. You are invited to grab a cup and head to the courtyard for (socially-distanced) fellowship.*

Pieces of today’s liturgy are from: the *Book of Common Worship,* PC(USA); *Together We Pray,* by J. Bradley Wigger and the Presbyterian *Outlook*, Matt Rich. GTG = “Glory to God” Hymnal