

Open the Eyes of my Heart

"You are witnesses of these things."

Script for Worship - Ascension of the Lord May 24, 2020

Open the eyes of my heart.

Liturgist: Sharon Selick
Music by The Atlanta Concert Ringers, Chris Barker

Music as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship

Welcome

Music "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" tune: CORONATION
Performed by the Atlanta Concert Ringers at NPC in February 2020

Call to Worship

Shout for joy, sing songs of praise,
for God reigns over all the earth!
God has gone up with a shout!
Sound the trumpets and sing songs of praise!

Opening hymn "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" tune: MADRID
Glory to God #267, verses 1 and 2

Come, Christians, join to sing:
Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our king;
Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice,
Before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice.
Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again:
Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain:

Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore,
His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore:
Alleluia! Amen!

Prayer of Praise

O God of glory, sovereign of all nations,
the risen and ascended Christ calls us
to carry your message of life to all people.
Led by the power of your Holy Spirit,
may we witness always to the hope to which we are called
as we share Christ's love to the ends of the earth.
Amen.

First Reading - Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.

I pray 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, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which God has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of God's great power.

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, 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. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Music

"Take My Life"
Tenor Chris Barker and guitar

Second Reading - Luke 24: 44-53

Then [Jesus] 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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Meditation

Pastoral Prayer and 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
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

Closing hymn "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun" tune: DUKE STREET
Glory to God #265, verses 1, 3, and 5

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Doth his successive journeys run;
His Kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.

Let every creature rise and bring
Peculiar honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud Amen.

Benediction

Doxology

*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.*