

**Downtown Presbyterian Church**  
**Order of Worship for May 24, 2020**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**Opening Voluntary**                      Composition on a Plainsong                      John Dunstable

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**                      “Ascension”                      Malcolm Guite

*We saw his light break through the cloud of glory  
Whilst we were rooted still in time and place  
As earth became a part of Heaven’s story  
And heaven opened to his human face.  
We saw him go and yet we were not parted  
He took us with him to the heart of things  
The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted  
Is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings,  
Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,  
Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,  
Whilst we ourselves become his clouds of witness  
And sing the waning darkness into light,  
His light in us, and ours in him concealed,  
Which all creation waits to see revealed .*

**Hymn**                      “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”  
Ryan Norris, cantor

**Gathering Prayer**

*Jesus, we want to know when things will be restored,  
when things will be back to “normal.”  
We are eager to resume our old lives –  
to visit family and friends, to share a hug or a meal,  
to travel freely and gather in large groups, to return to work and school.  
We are eager worship, to sing, to study, to serve.  
And we are discouraged. Or we are angry. Or we are depressed. Or we are impatient.  
Because what we want and what is possible are not aligned  
and there is nothing we can do about it.  
So forgive us when our frustrations get the better of us.  
Counsel us in our anxiety and bless us with patience.  
Thank you for reminding us that God is in charge and sets the times and seasons.  
And may the Holy Spirit, who assuredly surrounds us, transform  
our angst into hope,  
our worry into courage,  
and our old lives into new ones.  
Amen.*

## **Assurance of God's Grace**

*May the peace of Christ be with you.*

***And also with you.***

## **Announcements**

## **Children's Message**

## **Prayer for Illumination**

## **Scripture**

Acts 1:6-14

*As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, "Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?"*

*Jesus replied, "It isn't for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

*After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. They said, "Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven."*

*Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem—a sabbath day's journey away. When they entered the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter, John, James, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James, Alphaeus' son; Simon the zealot; and Judas, James' son—all were united in their devotion to prayer, along with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.*

## **Sermon**

Rev. Mike Wilson

## **Special Music**

"The Risen Christ"  
Ryan Norris, tenor

Walter Greatorex, 1916

*The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet  
from garden tomb through darkened city street,  
unlocks the door of grief, despair, and fear,  
and speaks a work of peace to all who hear.*

*The risen Christ, who stands with wounded side,  
breathes out his Spirit on them to abide  
whose faith still wavers, who dare not believe;  
new grace, new strength, new purpose they receive.*

*The risen Christ, who breaks with wounded hand  
the bread for those who fail to understand,  
reveals himself, despite their lingering tears,  
enflames their hearts, then quickly disappears.*

*May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand  
with those oppressed in this and every land,  
till all are blessed and can a blessing be,  
restored in Christ to true humanity.*

— Nigel Weaver, 1993

## **Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**

### **Hymn**

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!"  
Ryan Norris, cantor

### **Benediction**

### **Closing Voluntary**

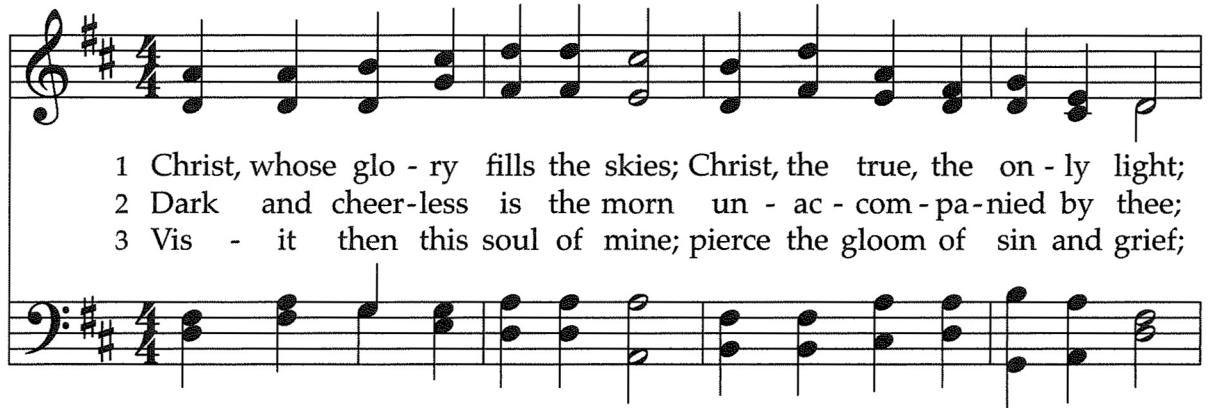
Agincourt Hymn

John Dunstable

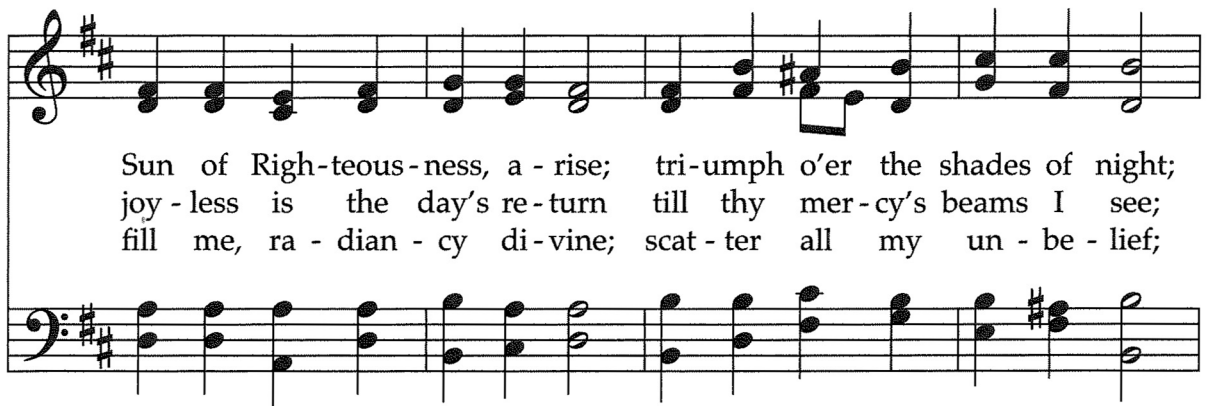
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John Dunstable (c. 1385-1453) composed today's voluntaries as well as our final hymn. Dunstable was an English composer and a mathematician and astronomer. He served as the musician to John, Duke of Bedford. Bedford was the regent of England and France during the reign of Henry VI. The final hymn tune, Deo Gracias, is also known as Agincourt Hymn. It is believed Dunstable wrote the hymn to celebrate the English victory at the Battle of Agincourt in France on October 25, 1415.

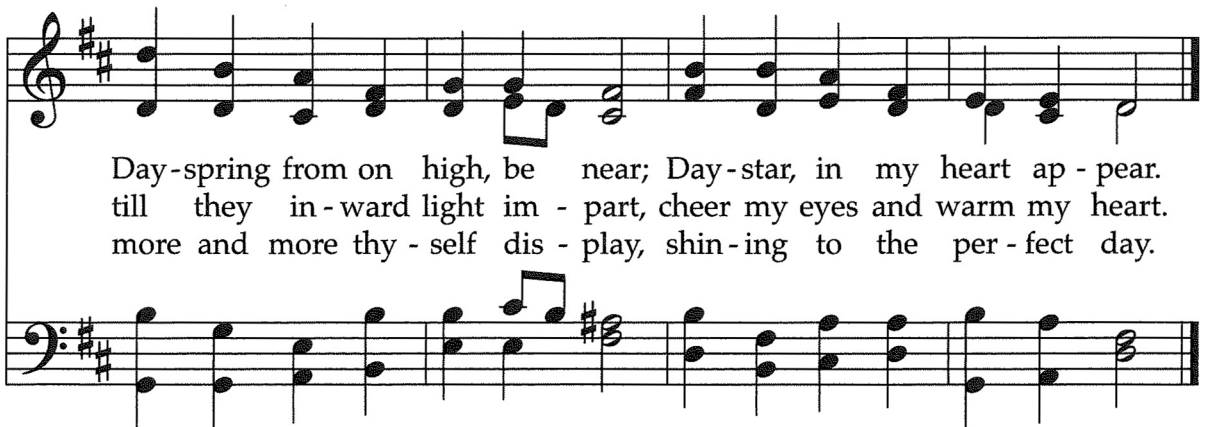
# Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies; Christ, the true, the on - ly light;  
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa-nied by thee;  
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of Righ-teous-ness, a - rise; tri-umph o'er the shades of night;  
joy - less is the day's re - turn till thy mer - cy's beams I see;  
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.  
till they in - ward light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.  
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

This well-crafted morning hymn opens by celebrating daylight as an image of Christ, the true Light, then ponders life without light, and culminates in a prayer for inward light. The tune's name honors its German roots: Ratisbon is the former English name for Regensburg.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1740  
MUSIC: German folk melody; adapt. Johann Werner, 1815; harm. William Henry Havergal, 1847

RATISBON  
7.7.7.7.7

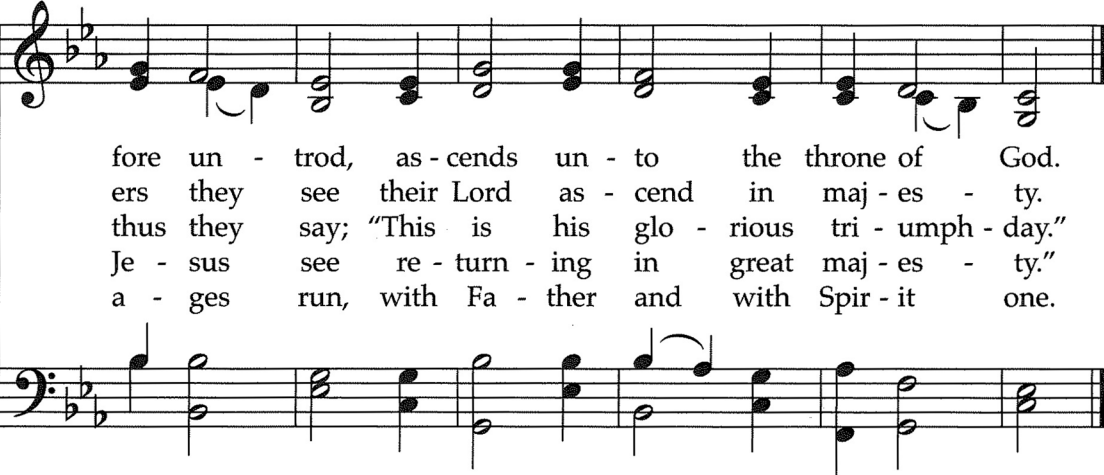
# A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New songs through-  
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the  
 3 To all, the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and  
 4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the  
 5 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to



out the world shall ring: Christ, by a road be -  
 Mount of Ol - ives stand, and with his fol - low -  
 gaze up - on the sky? This is the Sav - ior!"  
 por - tals of the sky. Here - af - ter you shall  
 you let earth ac - cord. You are, while end - less



fore un - trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.  
 ers they see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.  
 thus they say; "This is his glo - rious tri - umph - day."  
 Je - sus see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."  
 a - ges run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.

These stanzas have been crafted from various English translations of a much longer Latin hymn preserved in an 11th-century manuscript in the British Museum. This text celebrating Christ's majesty is well set to a 15th-century English tune commemorating a military victory.

TEXT: The Venerable Bede, 7th–8th cent.; trans. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978, alt.

MUSIC: "The Agincourt Song," c. 1415; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 2012

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship* (admin. Augsburg Fortress)

Music Harm. © 2012 Alfred V. Fedak

DEO GRACIAS

LM

(alternate tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN with "Alleluia," 15)

(alternate harmonization, 189)