

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Ascension of the Lord

May 16, 2021

Hearing assistance devices are available. Please ask a greeter for a receiver.

(*) indicates the congregation will stand if able

We Gather in God's Name

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING VOLUNTARY Chorale Prelude on *Salzburg* Ralph C. Schultz
Melody for hymn *Let the Whole Creation Cry*

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,
As we prepare to worship today,
We ask that you will stretch our imaginations
To sense the majesty and mystery of your ascension.
Help us perceive how Jesus' presence in heaven
Can give us confidence in our praying
And hope for the future.
Through Jesus, our Lord.
Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

- P: Jesus Christ has come into heaven and is at God's right hand—
With angels, authorities, and powers in submission to him.
- L: **Since we have a great high priest who has gone into heaven—
Jesus, the Son of God—let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.
Let us praise his holy name!**
- P: Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!
- L: **Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanks, honor, power, and strength
Be to our God forevermore!**
- P: Alleluia, Amen!
- L: Alleluia!

*HYMN #679

“Let the Whole Creation Cry”

Ryan Norris, cantor

CALL TO CONFESSION

We have an intercessor, who lives and reigns at God’s right hand.
Christ gives us courage to examine ourselves with honesty,
Knowing that nothing we do can separate us from the love of God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*UNISON*)

We come, O Lord, on this day of glory to confess our lack of trust.
While we sing of your lordship over all creation,
We have too often acted as though you are powerless
In the face of today’s events.
Help us to live with confidence in your presence today
And in hope for life with you forever.

(Time for silent confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE

L: Hear the good news of the gospel:
God, who is rich in mercy,
Out of the great love with which he loved us
Even when we were dead through our trespasses,
Made us alive together with Christ
And raised us up with him
--by grace we have been saved!
We are seated with Christ,
Have our being in Him,
So that, through us, He might show
the immeasurable riches of His grace.
In the ascended Christ, we are forgiven.
In the ascended Christ, we have new life.
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
May the peace of Christ be with you!

P: And also with you.

(For those in the sanctuary, please greet one another with a friendly wave, or wish your neighbors peace in the comment section.)

*GLORIA PATRI Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, amen.

God's Word Is Proclaimed

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kat Olson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE VERSE "These Treasured Children"

*Come Holy Spirit, help us be
a nurturing community.
Empower us to realize
God's kingdom through our children's eyes.*

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 93

L: The word of the Lord. P: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT

Acts 1:1-14

L: The word of the Lord. P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Kat Olson

We Respond to God's Word

*APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in god the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended to the dead.

continued

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven;
He IS seated at the right hand of the Father;
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN

***HYMN #835**

Just a Closer Walk With Thee

Traditional North American Hymn

Refrain:

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. [Refrain]

Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but
thee. [Refrain]

When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.
[Refrain]

Les Kerr, baritone & guitar

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

DEDICATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (*unison*)

Eternal God, each of us is a fragile miracle, evidence of your creative hands and amazing grace. We who have been crafted in your image and blessed with numerous gifts now give these material gifts to our Creator who loves and sustains us now and forever more. These gifts, Lord are brought to you in love through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

We Seal God's Word Upon Our Hearts And Bear It Into the World

*HYMN #268

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Ryan Norris, cantor

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

L: Let all God's people say

P: Alleluia Amen.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Postlude on *Diademata*

Gordon Young

Melody for hymn *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

(please remain seated during the closing voluntary)

679 Let the Whole Creation Cry

(Psalm 148)

1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high."
2 Men and wom-en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold;

Heaven and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might-y King."
join with chil - dren's songs of praise; wor - ship God through length of days.

Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;
From the north to south-ern pole let the might-y cho - rus roll:

sun and moon, up - lift your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice!
"Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One, glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

Originally this text was more than twice as long as the present version because it followed Psalm 148 in directing additional parts of the created order to praise God. This wide-ranging text is set here to a suitably expansive and well-crafted 17th-century chorale melody.

Crown Him with Many Crowns 268

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;

hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 but down-ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

This text is so familiar that it is easy to miss all its paradox, mystery, suffering, and beauty; it rewards careful reading and meditation outside corporate worship. The tune's composer, chapel organist at Windsor Castle, had much experience in creating a royal sound.

OUR MISSION

Gathering in the heart of Nashville, we are a community of disciples of Jesus Christ. We seek the welfare of the city as we seek the kingdom of God.

We are an historic church working to be a welcoming and inclusive congregation. Together we actively share God's grace and love through worship, education and service, and through being an active voice in promoting justice and peace in our community and the world.

OUR VALUES AND ETHOS

- Belief in God's love and in Christ's ministry
- The desire to welcome and embrace everyone. No exceptions.
- Service to God, service to our neighbors
- God's gift of creativity

SESSION 2021

Class of 2021

Jim Hoobler
Mary Turner
David Maddox

Class of 2022

Erin Bell
Tom Byl
Jake Byl

Class of 2023

Tom Wills
Samera Zavaro
Leslee Hughes

THE CHURCH STAFF

Dena Swoner, Office Manager
Paulino Jarquin, Maintenance Manager
Dr. William Taylor, Director of Music

Parking

Parking for Sunday worship is in the SP+ garage at **147 4th Ave. N.**

You must come down 4th from Church Street. Parking in this garage is complimentary from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Parking vouchers are necessary to exit the garage without having to pay. To get one, just ask one of our greeters.