



Waterloo Christian Reformed Church

209 Baringer Road N2L 4H5 (519) 746-5727

Ascension Sunday, May 24, 2020

Painting: Ngambuny (Christ) Ascends by Shirley Purdy, New Zealand

In the aboriginal tradition the land is sacred so the top image is of Jesus returning to the land. It can also be seen as the Lamb of victory in heaven or Jesus ascending into the clouds. It does show that even though Jesus returned to heaven, he is also still with us here on earth in the Spirit.

The other figure on the earth is Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Preacher: Rev. Vicki Cok

Worship Leader: Dave Jaarsma

Pianist: Pam Joosse

Liturgy: Nelda Looyenga

Welcome and Announcements

We Gather for Worship

Call to Worship - Psalm 47:5-8, NIV

God has ascended amid shouts of joy,
the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.

Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is the King of all the earth;
sing to him a psalm of praise.

God reigns over the nations;
God is seated on his holy throne.

Song of Praise: LUYH #223 (vs.1) – **Crown Him with Many Crowns**

- 1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own;
awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

God's Greeting

We Confess our Sins and Receive Assurance of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

While we claim to celebrate the ascension of our Lord,
the way we live proclaims our lack of faith
in his power to deal with the world.
Let us confess the incongruity between our faith and practice.
Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession

***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. Amen.***

Our Assurance

Our hope for a new creation
is not tied to what humans can do,
for we believe that one day
every challenge to God's rule will be crushed.

***His kingdom will fully come,
and the Lord will rule.***

We long for that day when our bodies are raised,
the Lord wipes away our tears,
and we dwell forever in the presence of God.

We will take our place in the new creation,
where there will be no more death,
or mourning, or crying, or pain,
and the Lord will be our light.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

—from *Our World Belongs to God*, st. 55-56

Song of Response: LUYH #908 (vs. 1,2,5) – **Christ Be Our Light**

- 1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

- 2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your Word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice. ***Refrain***

- 5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. ***Refrain***

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Blessed are you, Lord God, King of all creation:
You have taught us by your Word.
Open our hearts to your Spirit
and lead us on the paths of Christ, your Son.
All praise and glory be yours forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading: **Hebrews 1:1-4**

Concluded with “This is the word of the Lord” and “**Thanks be to God**”

Sermon: **He Has Spoken to Use**

Moment of Silent Meditation

*Take a moment to reflect on what God's word might mean for your life or on a truth that spoke to you.
Please be still until after the pianist concludes this time of silence.*

We Respond with Gratitude

Song of Response: LUYH #775 – **Across the Lands**

- 1 You're the Word of God the Father
from before the world began;
every star and every planet
has been fashioned by your hand.
All creation holds together
by the power of your voice.
Let the skies declare your glory;
let the land and seas rejoice.

Refrain

You're the author of creation,
you're the Lord of everyone,
and your cry of love rings out across the lands.

- 2 Yet you left the gaze of angels,
came to seek and save the lost
and exchanged the joy of heaven
for the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer you fed the hungry,
with a word you calmed the sea;
yet how silently you suffered,
that the guilty may go free. **Refrain**

- 3 With a shout you rose victorious,
wresting victory from the grave,
and ascended into heaven,
leading captives in your way.
Now you stand before the Father,
interceding for your own;
from each tribe and tongue and nation
you are leading sinners home. **Refrain**

Prayers of the People (using Chat)

We will conclude this time of prayer with the Lord's Prayer:

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
for yours is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.***

Offering: **Back to God Ministries International**

Diaconal Prayer

We Are Sent Out with the Spirit

Closing Prayer

Most high God, like the disciples, we're left staring at the sky,
mouth wide open in wonder

to think that someone like me – a real human being –
Now sits at your right hand, in glory.
In his physical absence, comfort us
With the knowledge that Jesus has ascended for our good,
Governing all things from his heavenly throne. Amen.

Closing Song: LUYH #682 (vs. 1) – **Before the Throne of God Above**

- 1 Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
a great High Priest whose name is Love,
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

Benediction and Choral “**Amen, Amen, Amen**”

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