



Trinitarian: Jesus and the Ascension

Trinitarian | Ascension Sunday
May 12, 2024 | 9:00 am

+ Please Stand

Bold Text = Congregation speak or sing

Chancel Flowers

Dannie and Darlin Keck give flowers to honor granddaughter Harper's 16th birthday today.

Brad and Jade Hart give flowers in loving memory of their mothers, Joyce DeLang and Alice Hart.

Worship Attendants

Rev. Jonathan Heifner, Lead Pastor

Rev. Ryan Roth-Klinck, Associate Pastor of Discipleship

Rev. Daniel Niyonzima, Associate Pastor, African Nationals

Dr. Mark Baumann, CAGO, Coordinator of Music Ministries

Michael Sauer, Director of Sanctuary Choir

Davis Robe, soloist

Miriam Mackey, percussion

Kelly Truax, piano

Lilah Clymer, Judy Fitzgibbons, and Kasasila Glorie, Liturgists

Ed Moreano, Buster Sullivan, and Cleo Sullivan, Gospel Reading

Laura Azelborn, Slide Presenter

Wes Nygren, Videographer

Craig Dove, Audio

The Roundtable Team

Cynde Clymer

Carol Curry

Bill Daylong

Cindy Edge

Stan Vandersall

GATHERING

Welcome

Prelude

Oriental Blossoms

Francis Legge Callahan

Tower Bells

Call to Worship

Ryan: Today is Ascension Sunday!

Lilah: Wait, wait, wait, hold on one second. Why are we talking about the capital of Paraguay in church

Ryan: The capital of Paraguay?

Lilah: Yeah, look up at this map on the screen. Ascension, Paraguay.

Ryan: Oh! I see the problem. That's Asunción; we are talking about Ascension.

Lilah and All: (turn to your neighbor and say) "Ohhhh."

Ryan: By the way, it's super impressive that you know the capital of Paraguay.

Lilah: Thanks! So, what is Ascension Sunday, then?

Ryan: Well, on Ascension Sunday, we commemorate Jesus being carried to heaven, thus entirely leaving this earthly life to be with God.

Lilah: Wait, so how exactly was he carried?

Ryan: What do you mean?

Lilah: How did Jesus ascend to heaven? Did his arms sprout wings? Did God send an airplane? Did he blast off like a rocket ship?

Ryan: A rocket ship?

Lilah: Yeah, I saw this meme on my phone.

Ryan: While that's cool, that's probably not how it happened.

Lilah: Well, how did it happen then?

Ryan: That's a great question. Even though I have a Master's of Divinity, I still don't know everything about God, and I'm not sure how Jesus was carried into heaven. Some things about God are mysteries.

Lilah: It's okay, Ryan; I have good news for you.

All: We are called to be a church that wrestles with the mysteries of God, the Holy Trinity!

Ryan: Please rise in body or spirit as we sing our first hymn,
Let All Things Now Living.

+ Hymn of Praise to the Triune God

Let All Things Now Living
TFWS 2008

**Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God the Creator
triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
who guides us and leads
to the end of our day.
God's banners fly o'er us;
God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining
forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel
from light into light.**

**The law God enforces,
the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit
obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean
proclaim the Divine.**

**We, too, should be voicing our
love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration
a song let us raise,
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
To God in the highest
hosanna and praise!**

Passing of the Peace

We believe God truly desires peace for all creation, so we take time as a congregation to bless each other with the peace of Christ.

A blessing is a way to wish for wholeness in someone's life, so please ensure everyone has peace passed to them, regardless of their generation.

We also strongly encourage you to venture out, meet someone you don't know, and learn their name. Your presence and connection are integral to the spirit of this gathering.

If you are online, you can pass peace to each other in the comment section.

May the peace of Christ
be with you!

All: And also with you!

FORMING

Act of Praise

Fill-a Me Up!

Pepper Choplin
Men's Ensemble

Life of the Community

The Greatest Commandment

The Greatest Commandment

Paul Zach

Michael Sauer, song leader

Song leader: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.

All: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.

Song leader: Let us be known, let us be known, by the way we love.

All: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.

Song leader: Love, Love, love, the greatest commandment is love, love, love, the greatest commandment is love, love, love, the greatest commandment is love.

All: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.

Prayers of the People

A Prayer for Mother's Day

adapted from Rebecca Garrett-Pace

For some of us, Mother's Day is joyful – flowers sent from our out-of-town children, lunch at our favorite restaurant, fun conversation about things that matter, with people who matter.

For some of us, Mother's Day is painful – the memories of moms and grandmas who have passed away, the regret of estrangement, the envy of families who seem so happy when we're *so... not*.

In the joy and the pain...

All: We show up for each other.

For some of us, today is a day
of expectation and excitement –
becoming a mom for the
first time, or godmother,
or step-parent, or aunt.

For some of us, today is just another
day *without* – without a child who
died before their time, without a
mother who should have been
there but couldn't or wouldn't;
without the partner or
family we had longed for.

In the joy and the pain...

All: We show up for each other.

For some of us, this is a day in
the in-between – sending kids off
to college; relocating away from
family because of work; finding
our way as a single parent.

For all of us – parents and children,
trans and cis, fur-baby-parents,
teachers, mentors, and friends
– this is a holy and precious
day that God has made.

In the joy and the pain...

All: We show up for each other.

We also remember those
who are in need of prayer in
our faith community.

God in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

+ Hymn of Preparation

Christ Is Risen

UMH 307 (stanzas 1-2)

**Christ is risen!
Shout Hosanna!
Celebrate this day of days.
Christ is risen!
Hush in wonder;
all creation is amazed.
In the desert all surrounding, see,
a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace
abounding bring
a taste of love unknown.**

**Christ is risen!
Raise your spirits from the
caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness
in the morning.
See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection,
not a servant, but a friend;
Jesus is our strong companion.
Joy and peace shall never end.**

+ Gospel Lesson

Luke 24:44-53

The Voice

Jesus: I've been telling you this all along, that everything written about Me in the Hebrew Scriptures must be fulfilled—everything from the law of Moses to the prophets to the psalms.

Then He opens their minds so they can comprehend the meaning of the Hebrew Scriptures.

Jesus: This is what the Scriptures said: that the promised Anointed One should suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, that in His name a radical change of thought and life should be preached, and that in His name the forgiveness of sins should be preached, beginning in Jerusalem and extending to all nations. You have witnessed the fulfillment of these things.

So I am sending My Father's
promise to you. Stay in the city until
you receive it—until power from
heaven comes upon you.

Then He leads them out to Bethany.
He lifts up His hands and blesses
them, and at that moment, with His
hands raised in blessing, He leaves
them and is carried up into heaven.
They worship Him, then they return
to Jerusalem, filled with intense joy,
and they return again and again to
the temple to celebrate God.

For the Word of God in scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen!

Christ Is Risen
UMH 307 (stanza 3)

**Christ is risen!
Earth and heaven
nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation
where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:
“Christ is risen! Get you gone!”
God the First and Last is with us.
Sing Hosanna everyone!**

Sermon

Act of Praise

Break Forth Into Joy
Stan Pethel
Sanctuary Choir

The watchmen shall lift up the voice,
And with one voice
together they shall sing.
For they shall see eye to eye.

The watchmen shall
lift up the voice,
And with one voice
together they shall sing.

Break forth into joy, O sing together.
For the Lord
has comforted his people,
He has redeemed Jerusalem.

Break forth into joy, O sing together.
For the Lord
has comforted his people,
He has redeemed Jerusalem.
Jerusalem.

The Lord shall bare his holy arm
In the eyes of all nations,
And all the ends of all the earth
Shall see the salvation,
Shall see the salvation of the Lord.

The watchmen shall lift up the voice,
And with one voice
together they shall sing,
They shall sing, they shall sing.

Break forth into joy, O sing together.
O sing, O sing, O sing to the Lord.

Offering Invitation

SENDING

+ Sending Hymn

Christ Is Alive


UMH 318

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes
with praises ring.
His love in death shall never die.**

**Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim
the here and now
and dwell in every place and time.**

**Not throned afar, remotely high,
untouched, unmoved
by human pains,
but daily, in the midst of life,
our Savior in the Godhead reigns.**

**In every insult, rift, and war,
where color, scorn,
or wealth divide,
he suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, though ever crucified.**



**Christ is alive,
and comes to bring good news
to this and every age,
till earth and all creation
ring with joy,
with justice, love, and praise.**

Invitation to Gather

Blessing

Going Forth

Postlude

Christ Is Alive

Seth Bingham

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welcome ALL

**We gather to worship God, whose nature is love.
And because God's love knows no bounds,
All are welcome here.**

All

ages

races

abilities

ethnicities

life circumstances

gender identities, expressions, and sexual orientations.

**We joyfully celebrate the diversity of All God's children
as we are inspired by the Holy Spirit to love as Jesus loves.**

Welcome to God's extravagant, inclusive love!

Welcome to St. Paul's!



What's Happening

at



ST. PAUL'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Scan Me

Scan QR Code above to view our events calendar.



Plant & Garden Tool Swap

Saturday, May 18, from 9:00-11:00 am
St. Paul's 14th Street parking lot

MAY 25, 2024
2:00-3:30 P.M.

INDIAN CREEK NATURE CENTER,
5300 OTIS RD SE, CEDAR RAPIDS

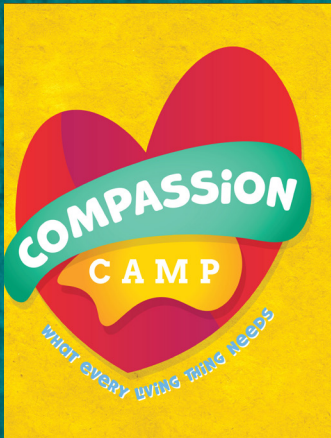


A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF ENGAGING WITH CREATION

TERRA DIVINA



Register Here →



June 10-13, 2024
9:00 am-12:00 pm
Open to ages 4 years old-5th grade

\$25 registration fee per family
financial assistance available
Extended Care available from 12:00-3:00pm
(lunch included) \$75 per child.

To register contact Julie Hanlin
(jhanlin@stpaulsumc.org)

MINI GOLF | Intergenerational Event

June 12 | 6:00 pm
Mini Pines (3800 42nd St NE, Cedar Rapids)



← Register Here



KERNELS | Intergenerational BASEBALL GAME | Event

June 27 | 6:35 pm | \$12/per person
Veterans Memorial Stadium (950 Rockford Rd SW, Cedar Rapids)




← Register Here




Helen Hunter
Art Exhibit through May & June
Upper Room Gallery



ONLINE

stpaulsumc.org/give



MAIL

Cash/Check/Credit/Debit
1340 3rd Avenue SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403



TEXT-TO-GIVE

text **SPUMCCR**
to **73256**



IN PERSON

Offering Plate



4 WAYS TO GIVE