

# Grace United Church of Christ

Sixth Sunday of Easter ~ Sunday, May 17, 2020 ~ ***Ascension Sunday***



**Jesus Ascended on the 'Lotus Throne'** (India art)

**Jyoti Sahi**, one of the most famous Christian artists alive in **India**, has made several paintings and woodcuts which portray Christ Ascension .... sitting in the 'lotus position' such as this woodcut:

**Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Sunday, May 17, 2020  
Ascension Sunday**

***We Gather***

Prelude "Psalm Prelude: Delectare in Domino" Jonas Dawson  
Fenton Groden

Welcome

Preparing our Hearts

Call to Worship

L: To God who sits on the throne and unto the Lamb

**P: Be honor and glory and power forever.**

L: Being lifted into the clouds, our LORD sat down at the right hand of God Almighty.

**P: God made Him King of kings and Lord of lords.**

L: Let us worship God!

Opening Hymn "Hail the Day That Sees Christ Rise" NCH # 260/insert

Opening Prayer

**Ever-living God, your eternal Christ once dwelt on earth, confined by time and space.  
Give us faith to discern in every time and place the presence among us of him who is  
head over all things and fills all, even Jesus Christ our ascended Lord. Amen.**

Gloria Patri (sung)

**Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the Beginning,  
is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.**

## Hail the Day That Sees Christ Rise

Acts 1:6-11; John 14:16

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Hail the day that sees Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Christ, for you high tri - umph waits, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 See! The nail - marked hands a - bove; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Christ for us still in - ter - cede, Al - le - lu - ia!

To a throne in par - a - dise; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Sing of God's re - deem - ing love; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 By your suf - fering for us plead; Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ, the Lamb for sin - ners given, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 You have con - quered death and sin; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Hark! Christ's words our hearts as - sure: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Make us wor - thy of the place, Al - le - lu - ia!

En - ters now the high - est heaven. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 You, our Sov - ereign, en - ter in! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 "I will send a Com - fort - er!" Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Which you of - fer us by grace. Al - le - lu - ia!

Charles Wesley's original text was written for Ascension Day 1739 and had no alleluias; these were added in 1852 by G. E. White. Joseph Jones' tune bears the name of a twelfth-century bard and a town in Wales.

Tune: GWALCHMAI 7.7.7.7. with alleluias  
 Joseph David Jones, 1868

Alternate tune: LLANFAIR

## ***We Listen***

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

Special Music

"Voluntary on 'Come Down, O Love Divine'"  
Ralph Vaughan Williams, arr. John G. Barr (b. 1938)

Jonas Dawson

Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

Rev. Rob Apgar-Taylor

Sermon

"Well, What do you know?"

Rev. Rob Apgar-Taylor

## ***We Respond***

Pastoral Prayers

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: ...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory,**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: ...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**ALL: Christ has died  
Christ is risen  
Christ will come again.**

Leader: ...Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

**ALL: Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

**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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Sharing of the Elements

Blessing after Communion

God of us all, In the gift of bread and cup we celebrate your presence in our church and in our lives. As your presence unites us in the gift of this holy meal, so we know that in your love we are united wherever we are. Keep true in us that same spirit that has united the Church throughout all generations and bring us soon into physical communion, through that same spirit, which is Christ, the Lord. Amen.

### ***We are Sent***

Announcements

Blessing

Closing Hymn

"Crown with Your Richest Crowns "

NCH # 301/insert

Dismissal

Postlude

"All Creatures of Our God and King"  
from *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, arr. Larry Shackley

Jonas Dawson

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## Crown with Your Richest Crowns

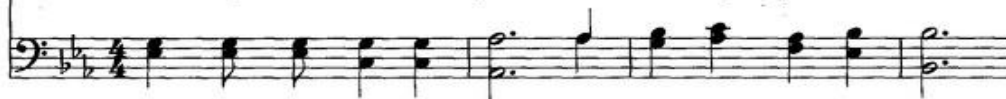
John 19:16-18, 31-34; Rev. 7:9-10

Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874

Adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1993



1 Crown with your rich - est crowns the Lamb up - on the throne;  
 2 Crown Christ whose love has flowed down hands and feet and side.  
 3 Crown Christ the truth, the life who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
 4 Crown Christ who rules in peace, whose power a scep - tre sways  
 5 Crown Christ who holds the years, em - brac - ing space and time,



Hark! how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.  
 Look past the peak of Cal - vary's road to Christ the glo - ri - fied.  
 And rose vic - to - rious in the strife, this fal - len world to save.  
 From pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise:  
 Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime:



A - wake, my soul, and sing of Christ who died for you, And  
 The sun that lights the sky is pale be - fore that sight. At  
 Christ's glo - ries now we sing, Christ's name we mag - ni - fy, Who  
 Christ's reign shall have no end, for 'round those wound-ed feet a  
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For you have died for me; Your



*This hymn has evolved as a composite of the original text by Matthew Bridges and Godfrey Thring's version written twenty-three years later. Diademata was composed for Bridges' text and is titled for the Greek word meaning "crowns."*

Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D.  
 George J. Elvey, 1868



# Daily Bible Readings

Friday, May 1, 2020:

Psalm 23; Exodus 3:16-22, 4:18-20; 1 Peter 2:13-17

Saturday, May 2, 2020:

Psalm 23; Ezekiel 34:1-16; Luke 15:1-7

Sunday, May 3, 2020: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47 • Psalm 23 • 1 Peter 2:19-25 • John 10:1-10

Monday, May 4, 2020: Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:17-23; 1 Peter 5:1-5

Tuesday, May 5, 2020: Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:23-31; Hebrews 13:20-21

Wednesday, May 6, 2020: Psalm 100; Jeremiah 23:1-8; Matthew 20:17-28

Thursday, May 7, 2020: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Genesis 12:1-3; Acts 6:8-15

Friday, May 8, 2020: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Exodus 3:1-12; Acts 7:1-16

Saturday, May 9, 2020: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Jeremiah 26:20-24; John 8:48-59

Sunday, May 10, 2020: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60 • Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 • 1 Peter 2:2-10 • John 14:1-14

Monday, May 11, 2020: Psalm 102:1-17; Exodus 13:17-22; Acts 7:17-40

Tuesday, May 12, 2020: Psalm 102:1-17; Proverbs 3:5-12; Acts 7:44-56

Wednesday, May 13, 2020: Psalm 102:1-17; Proverbs 3:13-18; John 8:31-38

Thursday, May 14, 2020: Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 6:5-22; Acts 27:1-12

Friday, May 15, 2020: Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 7:1-24; Acts 27:13-38

Saturday, May 16, 2020: Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 8:13-19; John 14:27-29

Sunday, May 17, 2020: Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 17:22-31 • Psalm 66:8-20 • 1 Peter 3:13-22 • John 14:15-21

Monday, May 18, 2020: Psalm 93; Genesis 9:8-17; Acts 27:39-44

Tuesday, May 19, 2020: Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 5:22-33; 1 Peter 3:8-12

Wednesday, May 20, 2020: Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 31:1-13; John 16:16-24

Thursday, May 21, 2020: Ascension of the Lord  
Acts 1:1-11 • Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 • Ephesians 1:15-23 • Luke 24:44-53

Friday, May 22, 2020: Psalm 93; 2 Kings 2:1-12; Ephesians 2:1-7

Saturday, May 23, 2020: Psalm 93; 2 Kings 2:13-15; John 8:21-30

Sunday, May 24, 2020: Seventh Sunday of Easter  
Acts 1:6-14 • Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 • 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 • John 17:1-11

Monday, May 25, 2020: Psalm 99; Leviticus 9:1-11, 22-24; 1 Peter 4:1-6

Tuesday, May 26, 2020: Psalm 99; Numbers 16:41-50; 1 Peter 4:7-11

Wednesday, May 27, 2020: Psalm 99; 1 Kings 8:54-65; John 3:31-36

Thursday, May 28, 2020: Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 19:1-9a; Acts 2:1-11

Friday, May 29, 2020: Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 19:16-25; Romans 8:14-17

Saturday, May 30, 2020: Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 20:1-21; Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, May 31, 2020: Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth  
1 Samuel 2:1-10 • Psalm 113 • Romans 12:9-16b • Luke 1:39-57

Sunday, May 31, 2020: Day of Pentecost  
Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30 • Psalm 104:24-34, 35b •  
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21 • John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39





## *Grace United Church of Christ*

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*  
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Jessica Townsley, Youth Minister  
Jonas Dawson, Director of Music  
James Taylor, Bell Choir Director  
Taylor Whidden, Jennie Huntoon, Donald Toms, James Taylor  
Choir Section Leaders  
Joan Princler, Nursery Attendant  
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### SUNDAY WORSHIP – 11:00 AM

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month.

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Scripture Reader: ONLINE  
Children's Message: N/A  
Children's Church: N/A  
Altar Guild: N/A

*If you would like to serve as a greeter, or host fellowship time after worship,  
please add your name to the sign up sheet in the Good Shepherd Room.*

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

