



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
SYLVA, NORTH CAROLINA

A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

May 12, 2024

Ascension of the Lord

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *"Come Christians, Join to Sing"*

arranged by Becki Slagle Mayo

Call to Worship: Psalm 47:1-8

Leader: Come, everyone! Clap your hands! Shout to God with joyful praise!

People: For the Lord Most High is awesome. He is the great King of all the earth.

Leader: He subdues the nations before us, putting our enemies beneath our feet.

People: He chose the Promised Land as our inheritance, the proud possession of Jacob's descendants, whom he loves.

Leader: God has ascended with a mighty shout.

People: The Lord has ascended with trumpets blaring.

Leader: Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises!

People: For God is the King over all the earth. God reigns above the nations, sitting on his holy throne.

***Opening Hymn #209:** *"Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise"* (verses 1-4)

***Prayer of Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon & Passing of the Peace**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

***Hymn #361:** *"Because He Lives"*

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow, because he lives, all fear is gone;

Because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living, just because he lives!

**Please stand as you are able.*

Children's Message

We invite children ages 3 through 2nd grade to come forward for a brief lesson, after which they may go back to their seats or on to Children's Church.

Anthem #529: *"Gather Us In"*

Scripture Lesson: Acts 1:1-11

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Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *"From Resurrection to Ascension"*

Rev. Blake Daniel

***Hymn of Response #537:** *"Open the Eyes of My Heart"*

***Affirmation of Faith:** *The Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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.

Tithes & Offerings: *"Fugue in F Major"*

Johann Sebastian Bach

***Doxology #965**

***Closing Hymn #208:** *"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"* (verses 1 & 2)

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response #208:** *"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"* (verse 4)

Postlude: *"Prelude in F Major"*

Johann Sebastian Bach

We invite you to join us for coffee fellowship in the Fellowship Hall following the service!

OUR MISSION

To make disciples who love Jesus Christ, love the church, and love their neighbors as themselves.

TO OUR VISITORS

We are glad you are here! Please write your name and contact information in the visitor pad in your pew before you leave. We would love to send you a personal note of welcome. Please notify our Pastor if you are interested in joining our congregation as a member.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The annual Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering will be taken up today, May 12.** Over the last century, these grants have funded more than 200 major projects that continue to provide medical care, education, shelter, food, and support for people most in need at home and abroad.
- **The next Presbyterian Women's Circle meeting will be Thursday, May 16 at 10:00am** in the Mary Jay Patten Center youth room, on Lesson 8. All women are invited to attend.
- **Dillsboro River Company will hold their annual can drive on Sunday, May 19** to benefit United Christian Ministries. Bring 10 cans of food per person and receive a free self-guided raft trip down the Tuckasegee River!
- **This year's Community Vacation Bible School will be May 28-31 from 9am-12pm** at Bridge Park. We are partnering with other area churches to offer a fun, educational, Christ-centered start to the summer. *Can you volunteer?* We need folks to help with registration and to serve as group leaders (chaperoning kids from grades Pre-K through Middle School). You can come just one day, or more. Please contact the church office if you can help. A registration link to sign up your child or grandchild is on our website.
- **We are collecting cereal, pasta and pasta sauce for United Christian Ministries.** You can leave your donations on the Giving Tree in the Fellowship Hall.

A WORD ABOUT WORSHIP

Ascension Day occurs 40 days after Easter (on May 9 this year). Though often overlooked, this event is filled with theological significance. Christ's ascension means that in heaven there is one who, knowing firsthand the experience of suffering and temptation, prays for us and perfects our prayers. The ascension is a witness and guarantee of our own bodily resurrection, as well as an invitation for us to set our hearts and minds "on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God" (Col. 3:1-2) to rule over all things in heaven and throughout the universe (Eph. 1:10, 20-23). Finally, the ascension of Jesus serves as the prelude to Pentecost, when the power of the risen Christ came upon all believers through the Holy Spirit.

CONTRIBUTIONS: 05-02-24 / 05-09-24

Regular: \$6,296.69; **Missions:** \$500.00; **Contingency:** \$200.00; **Organ:** \$25.69; **Total:** \$7,022.38
Online Giving: www.sylvapres.org/giving; **Attendance:** 117

SERVERS

Ushers & Greeters: Tom Tabor, Billy Noell, Susan Gingerich
Acolyte: Luke Daniel; **Coffee Fellowship:** Presbyterian Women
Flowers: Tom & Melanie Tabor

PRAYER REQUESTS

Send prayer concerns or updates to our prayer email address: pray@sylvapres.org.

You may also call the church office at (828) 586-4256 to share a request.

Please contact our Pastor or Deacon of the Month if you or a loved one are in the hospital or in need.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor: Blake Daniel

Administrative Assistant:

Jean Chance

Music Director: Courtney Umphlett

Organist/Pianist: Margaret Hale

Children & Youth Ministry Director:

Heather Monar

Children's Ministry Assistant:

Lilly Matheson

Treasurer: Judy Henderson

Financial Secretary: Grace Reed

Asst. Financial Secretary: Lynda Parlett

Deacon of the Month:

Tom Tabor – (828) 226-9260

Beth Baxley (alt) – (828) 399-0735

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