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Salvador Dali, *Ascension of Christ*, 1958

COF Worship, Sunday May 24, 10:30 am

Seventh Sunday of Easter/ Ascension

Opening Music

Greeting *Please feel free to offer the peace to each other through texting or through the comment box. Those on the conference call may wish each other the peace as well.*

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship and Prayer of Approach

L O come, let us sing to the Lord and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!

P: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving, singing joyful songs of praise!

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 54). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Let us pray: **O God, your Son, Jesus, prayed for his disciples, and sent them into the world to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. By your Holy Spirit, hold the church in unity, and keep it faithful to your Word, so that, breaking bread together, we may be one with Christ in faith and love and service, now and forever; and as the body of Christ let us pray the prayer that Christ taught us: *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.***

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 343). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Song *Come Christians Join to Sing*

Come, Christians join to sing, Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King, Alleluia! Amen!

Let all with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;

Praise is his gracious choice, Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky, Alleluia! Amen!

He is our guide and friend, to us he'll condescend,

His love shall never end, Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia! Amen!

Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,

Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

Call to Confession

When we pass through deep waters or go through times of fiery trial, the Lord our God is with us. With confidence in God, our creator and redeemer, let us admit our brokenness.

Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have wandered from your ways, wasted your gifts, and forgotten your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, as have been shown to us in Christ Jesus. (moment of silence)

As God hears our confessions,
may we hear God say in return:

*I forgive you,
I love you always,
And I am with you.*

Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

Response of Praise

*Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name. (2x)*

Special Music

Prayer for Illumination

Listen to the Word

Listen to the word that God has spoken

Listen to the one who is close at hand

Listen to the voice that began creation

Listen even if you don't understand

Scripture Acts 1:6-14 ⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Hymn Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God to Earth come down

Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

*Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the glowing garb of spring
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer who makes the woeful heart to sing.*

*Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling, starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer, than all the angels heaven can boast.*

Scripture John 17:1-11 After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith—Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Joys and Concerns—*please type into the comments box on the lower right hand side of the screen, or speak them out loud if you're on the conference call.*

Song: Sent Out in Jesus' Name

*Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now,
To make the earth a place in which the kingdom comes (2x)*

*The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain
Into a world of love, of justice and of peace,*

*The job is ours to do, to set it really free.
O help us to obey and carry out your will.*

Repeat

Charge and Benediction