

OUR CHURCH FAMILY AT WORSHIP

*Ascension Sunday*

May 21, 2023

11:00 A.M.

TIME OF GATHERING: Read through Announcements, Pray over Concerns, Meditate on Celebrations and the wonder and grace of God, and Thanksgiving to God....

**Please sign the red pads and pass it onto the next person in your pew.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*Blessed Jesus, We Are Here*

Karl Osterland

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

**People: For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.**

Liturgist: God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

**People: Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

Liturgist: For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

**All: God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.**

\*HYMN

*Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise*

No. 312

OPENING PRAYER (seated)

Unison: **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.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

*Ephesians 1:15-23*

Liturgist: The Word of God for God's people.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\*RESPONSE

*Thy Word Is a Lamp*

No. 601 refrain only

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path.**

\*ASCENSION DAY AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**You are not only risen and alive, you are Lord.**

**This your ascension,**

**your ascendancy over the whole universe.**

**You stand over and above all that is best in life as its source.**

**You stand above all that is worst as the ultimate victor.**

**You stand above all powers and authorities as judge.**

**You stand above all failure and weakness and sin, with forgiveness and love.**

**You alone are worthy of total allegiance, total commitment.**

**You are Lord, "My Lord and my God."**

CHOIR ANTHEM

*Let the Whole Creation Cry*

Jay Althouse

GOSPEL READING

*Luke 24:44-53*

MESSAGE

*"Ascension Essentials"*

*Pastor Janet Saddel*

\*HYMN

*Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus*

No. 325

AN INVITATION TO PRAY

+Prayer of Confession

Pastor: 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 together now:

People: **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.**

+Pastoral Prayer

+Lord's Prayer (trespasses)

+Sung Response

*He Is Lord*

No. 177

**He is Lord, He is Lord, He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!**

**Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

*Give Me Jesus*

Robert Lau

\*Congregational Response *All Creatures of Our God and King* No. 62 vs 7  
**Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness,  
O praise ye! Alleluia!**  
**Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in one!  
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

\*HYMN *Crown Him with Many Crowns* No. 327

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor: People of God, we are sent out in the power of the Holy Spirit, to be God's witnesses; to proclaim the Good News to everyone we meet, to share the love that God has lavished on us in Jesus Christ. So go from here in the power and strength of God, to bear witness to all you have seen and experienced.

**All: Amen and Amen!**

\*ORGAN RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE *Postlude on Llanfair* Wilbur Held

\*All stand if possible +All kneel or sit to pray

*The flowers this morning are presented by Joyce Redinger  
to the Honor and Glory of God.*

We thank all those who helped with the service this morning.  
Liturgist: Joan Sowers

**Mission Statement for the Church of the Good Shepherd**

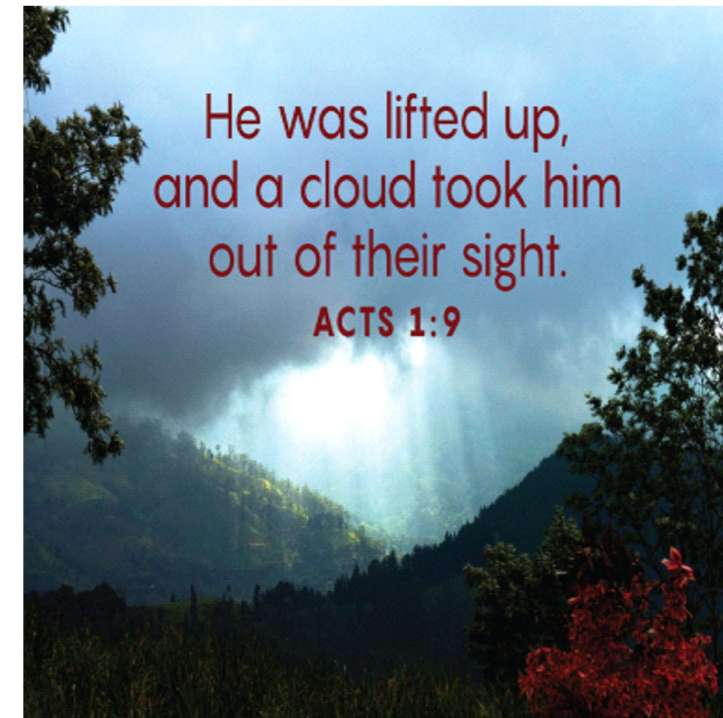
We are committed to:

- ▶ Connecting persons to Jesus Christ
- ▶ Connecting with broken and hurting people
- ▶ Challenging persons to grow and celebrate their relationship with Jesus Christ
- ▶ Equipping persons and partnering with them to serve in God-powered ministry



Reverend Janet Sadel, Lead Pastor  
jsadel@umcogs.org  
Reverend Lisa Flory, Pastor  
lflory@umcogs.org

**TRADITIONAL WORSHIP**   
*Celebration of Faith*



**Ascension Essentials**

May 21, 2023

Ascension Sunday

11:00 A.M.

1500 Quentin Road / Lebanon, PA 17042  
church: 717-272-7741 / www.umcogs.org

Sermon Outline:

Calendar for Week of 5/21/2023

Ascension Essentials

Luke 24:44-53; Ephesians 1:15-23

Today is “Ascension Sunday” - Jesus rose from this earth in human form and is in heaven in bodily form, ruling and reigning.

The ascension means that we are somehow in the presence of Christ as he sits on the throne of heaven.

We can come before the throne of heaven without fear, because our advocate is there – Jesus stands before God and declares us free of sin, his blood was shed for our sins, and we can stand in God’s presence with a clear conscience. The ascension makes this possible, because Jesus is physically there to represent us before God the Father.

Because of the ascension, we have Jesus, our high priest, representing us in heaven.

The Holy Spirit is the presence of Christ with us on earth.

Heaven is a physical place because there is a flesh and blood human being sitting on the throne. And he has promised us that we too, will one day be with him in our physical bodies – resurrected and restored. We retain our identities – Jesus retained his identity – we will retain ours.

Jesus ascended as Lord to the throne, he sits at the right hand of the Father and reigns as the Lamb upon the throne.

The ministry of Jesus on earth came to an end with the ascension. He returned to His Father to begin his heavenly ministry. And now, Jesus has been exalted and glorified. He assumes his royal office – the reign of Jesus knows no end. He has dominion and power over all things in heaven and on earth.

Scriptures: Colossians 1:21b-23a and 3:1-3; Hebrews 4:14-16; John 16:7

**2023 Mission Support**

International

Heifer Int., Congo Partners in Mission, Africa University

Lebanon County

COGS in Motion, Gretna Glen Support, Habitat for Humanity, Celebrate Recovery, Iglesia Nuevo Nacimiento, Lebanon County Christian Ministries (LCCM), Jubilee Ministries, Lebanon Rescue Mission, COGS Care and Compassion Fund.

**SUNDAY**

**BAKED ZITI take home ASP fundraiser**

**ISAAC’S playground fundraiser**

8:30 / 9:45 - Contemporary [Worship Center]

9:45 - Sunday School

11:00 - Traditional Worship [Sanctuary]

11:00 - Parenting SS Class [Lounge]

4:00 - CR Step Study [Lounge/Choir rm]

Youth Grades 6-12 please see Youth Page in the Announcements

**MONDAY**

10-12 - Staff Meeting

6:00 - Private [Sanctuary]

6:00 - CR Praise Team Rehearsal [WC]

6:00—Youth Leader Meeting [Forge rm]

6:30 - Church and Society [Lounge]

**TUESDAY**

7:00 - Learn & Discern [Lounge]

**WEDNESDAY**

8:30-11:30 - MLLC [rms 200/202]

7:00 - Celebrate Recovery

7:00 - Traditional Choir Rehearsal [Sanctuary]

**THURSDAY**

5:00 - Contemporary Design Team

5:30 - Traditional Design Team

**FRIDAY**

6-9 - SS covered dish dinner [Hall]

**SATURDAY**

9:00 - Contemporary Worship Rehearsal

| 6:00 - Open Art Night [Hall]

**SUNDAY**

8:30 / 9:45 - Contemporary [Worship Center]

9:45 - Sunday School

11:00 - Traditional Worship [Sanctuary]

11:00 - Parenting SS Class [Lounge]

4:00 - CR Step Study [Lounge/Choir rm]

Youth Group - see Youth Page in the Announcements