



Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
May 16, 2021
Ascension Sunday

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Music streamed in today's service

Good Christians, All, Rejoice and Sing - David Schelat
Alleluia Gracious Jesus - NCH #257
All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name - NCH #304
Sent Forth by God's Blessings - NCH #76
Grand Choer - Gordon Young

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Today's service will be recorded.

Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
May 16, 2021
Ascension Sunday

Prelude Good Christians, All, Rejoice and Sing David Schelat

Welcome and Announcements Sarah Fuller

Call to Worship Bruce Nickerson

A new day has begun.

Hope wins!

A fresh start is granted.

Faith wins!

Today you have the opportunity to do something new.

Hope wins!

Christ is entering your life in a new way.

Faith wins!

Come, let us worship God, who is inviting us into life in a new way, a way that transcends death, a way of hope and faith.

Love wins!

Let us worship Christ, who overcame death to give us new life!

Opening Prayer

Bruce Nickerson

Risen and ascended Christ,
you surround us with witnesses
and send us the Counselor
who opens our minds to understand your teaching.
Bless us with such grace
that our lives may become a blessing for the world
now, and in the age to come. Amen.

Opening Hymn **Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!** - NCH #257 (music on following page)

1 Alleluia! Gracious Jesus! Yours the scepter, yours the throne!

Alleluia! Yours the triumph, yours the victory alone!

Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:

Jesus out of every nation you've redeemed us by your blood.

2 Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now.

Alleluia! You are near us; faith believes, nor questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received you, when the forty days were o'er,

shall our hearts forget your promise, "I am with you evermore."

3 Alleluia! Bread of angels, you on earth our food, our stay.

Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to you from day to day.

Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, plead for me,

and the songs that sound in heaven will repeat your gracious plea.

4 Alleluia! Christ eternal, nothing can disrupt your reign;

Alleluia! Born of Mary, heaven and earth are your domain.

Human life you fully entered, tending those we count the least,

serving both as Priest and Victim in the eucharistic feast.

Opening Hymn Alleluia Gracious Jesus - NCH #257

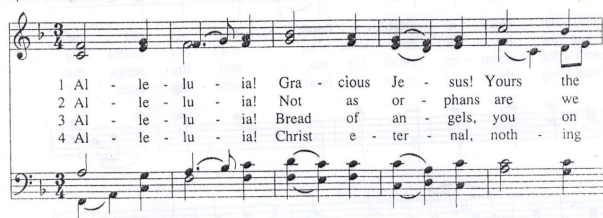
ASCENSION

257

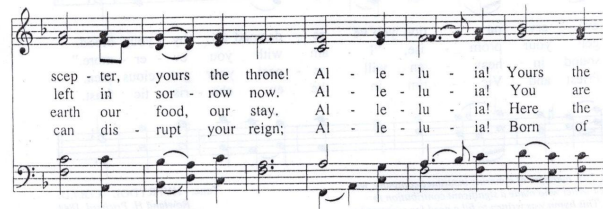
Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!

Eph. 1:15-23; Heb. 9:11-14

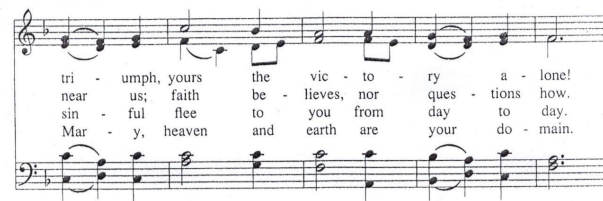
William C. Dix, 1867, alt.



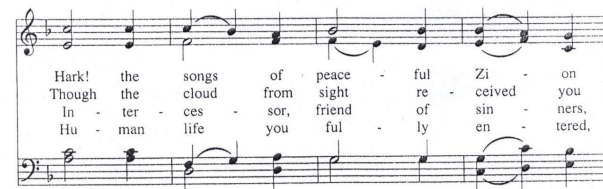
1 Al - le - lu - ia! Gra - cious Je - sus! Yours the
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, you on
4 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ e - ter - nal, noth - ing



scep - ter, yours the throne! Al - le - lu - ia! Yours the
left in sor - row now. Al - le - lu - ia! You are
earth our food, our stay. Al - le - lu - ia! Here the
can dis - rupt your reign; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of



tri - umph, yours the vic - to - ry a - lone!
near us; faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.
sin - ful flee to you from day to day.
Mar - y, heaven and earth are your do - main.



Hark! the songs of peace - ful Zi - on
Though the cloud from sight re - ceived you
In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners,
Hu - man life you ful - ly en - tered,



thun - der like a might - y flood; Je - sus, out of
when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our hearts for -
earth's Re - deem - er, plead for me, and the songs that
tend - ing those we count the least, serv - ing both as
ev - ery na - tion you've re - deemed us by your blood.
get your prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more."
sound in heav - en will re - peat your gra - cious plea.
Priest and Vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

- 44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”
- 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,
- 46 and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,
- 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
- 48 You are witnesses of these things.
- 49 And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”
- 50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.
- 51 While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.
- 52 And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy;
- 53 and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Hymn All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name - NCH #304*

REIGN OF CHRIST

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

304

St. 1-3, Edward Perronet, 1779, 1780; alt.
St. 4, John Rippon, 1787; alt.

Rev. 19; 5:9; Phil. 2:9-11

1 All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Christ servant of all.
Attend the Savior's sovereign claim, and crown Christ servant of all.

2 Adorn, O martyred saints of old, the coronation hall;
Extol the wounded One foretold, and crown Christ bearer of all.
Extol the wounded One foretold, and crown Christ bearer of all.

3 All heirs of Israel's chosen race, now ransomed from the fall,
Proclaim the wonders of God's grace and crown Christ healer of all.
Proclaim the wonders of God's grace and crown Christ healer of all.

4 Before the cross, with heaven's throng, we on our knees shall fall;
We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.



1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
2 A - dorn, O mar - tyred saints of old, the cor - o - na - tion hall;
3 All heirs of Is - rael's chos - en race, now ran - somed from the fall,
4 Be - fore the cross, with heav - en's throng, we on our knees shall fall;



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown Christ ser - vant of all.
Ex - tol the wound - ed One fore - told, and crown Christ bear - er of all.
Pro - claim the won - ders of God's grace, and crown Christ heal - er of all.
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown Christ sav - ior of all.



At - tend the Sav - ior's sov - ereign claim, and crown Christ ser - vant of all.
Ex - tol the wound - ed One fore - told, and crown Christ bear - er of all.
Pro - claim the won - ders of God's grace, and crown Christ heal - er of all.
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown Christ sav - ior of all.



Sermon

Rev. Reebee Girash

Passing the Peace

Prayers of the People and the Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Our Father (Creator), 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.

Invitation to the Offering

Sarah Fuller

If you would like to support Pilgrim Church, you may mail in a check or arrange electronic giving by contacting Dave McClave. Additionally, we now accept donations via PayPal on our website under the tab Learning, Growing and Caring and select Giving. Thank you for your support.

Offertory

Doxology (#515 Red)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

or

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Prayer of Dedication

Bruce Nickerson

Generous God, we give thanks for the blessings of our lives. We now bring our gifts to you, that they may make a difference in our world. We pledge them to the purpose of serving you by serving others.
Amen.

Closing Hymn **Sent Forth by God's Blessings** - NCH #76

- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave. The service is ended,
O now be extended the fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all. God's grace did invite us,
and love shall unite us to work for God's realm and to answer the call.
- 2 With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face. Our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring, embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us,
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

(music on following page)

Closing Hymn Sent Forth by God's Blessings - NCH #76

76

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Omer Westendorf, 1964

Descant

2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

Unison

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, the
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave. The ser - vice is
 tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed the fruits of our wor - ship in
 shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with

all who be - lieve. The seed of the teach - ing, re -
 each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with

your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this

cep - tive hearts reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for
 your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this

life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -

God and for all. God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u -
 life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -

giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.

nite us to work for God's realm and to an - swer the call.
 giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.

Source Notes: The call to worship is by Rev. Mindi and posted on Rev-o-lution. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>
The Opening Prayer is from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers.

*The Hymn “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” was written by Edward Perronet, who lived from 1726-1792. The hymn has been referred to as the “National Anthem of Christendom.” It was first published in 1779 in *The Gospel Magazine*, which was popular among the “dissenters” breaking away from the Church of England. It was published again several years later in a book of verses, along with an acrostic poem. The first letters of each line spelled Edward Perronet, so it was believed that the book and the hymn were of his authorship.

Perronet seems to have been a bold, spiritual, successful preacher, one who followed his convictions. He founded an independent church where he served until his death. It was about the time of his church’s founding at age 58, that he wrote this hymn. The hymn is a song of triumph in times of trouble and persecution.

-- Flora, Julia Ann. *Suffering and Song: Lives of Hymn Writers*. 2nd ed., Independently published, 2019.