



*Ascension  
of the  
Lord*

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# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter | Ascension Sunday

June 1, 2025

10:50 a.m.

## ✠ We Gather in God's Name ✠

**Welcome**

*Rev. Bill Pollack*

**Graduate Recognition**

*Andrew Smithson*

**Prelude**

*Max Jackson*

### A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Diderik Buxtehude

## † Call to Worship

*Nancy Compton*

L: Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David.

**P: He endured that we might live with Him. He died that we might reign with Him.**

L: Most gracious God: On this day, when we celebrate Your Son's return to You in glory, we offer humble and joyous thanks for what He did for us and for all who will respond to His claim.

**P: With His disciples, we behold with awestruck wonder His triumphant ascension, hailing Him as a prophet, priest and king.**

Leader: He was faithful to You from first to last, even at the price of a horrible death.

**P: Keep us faithful with His help -- in our worship, our witness, our service. In His name, we pray. Amen.**

## † Hymn of Praise

#498

### Loaves were Broken, Words were Spoken

Loaves were broken; words were spoken by the Galilean shore.

Jesus, Bread of Life from heaven was their food for evermore.

By Your body broken for us, by Your wine of life outpoured;

Jesus, feed again Your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Loaves were broken; words were spoken in a quiet room one night.

In the bread and wine You gave them,

Christ, You came as Light from Light.

By Your body broken for us, by Your wine of life outpoured;

Jesus, feed again Your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Loaves were broken; words are spoken as in faith we gather here.

Jesus speaks across the ages: "I am with you, do not fear."

By Your body broken for us, by Your wine of life outpoured;  
Jesus, feed again Your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

By the loaves You break and give us, send us in Your name to share  
bread for which the millions hunger,  
words that tell Your love and care.

By Your body broken for us, by Your wine of life outpoured;  
Jesus, feed again Your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

† **Call to Confession**

† **Prayer of Confession**

**Almighty God: You accepted our Lord's sacrifice on the cross for our salvation; by Your infinite power You raised Him from death on the third day, clothing Him again with the flesh in which the disciples had known Him, so that they might recognize Him; and then you called Him home, to rule with You in heaven until His final return to earth. We humbly confess that, while we know the story and even believe it, we do not allow it to make much difference in our lives. We still dread death as if we did not have His promise of life beyond this life. We do not know how to respond rightly to the assurance of His ultimate return at the end of our time. Forgive us, O God, that we may reflect more deeply on the sacred story, that our discipleship may be enhanced and that our service to Him may become more useful and effective. In the name of the risen and ascended Savior we pray. Amen.**

† **Assurance of Pardon**

† **Response**

#245 (3)

Christ the Lord is Risen Today!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!

Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!

Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

✠ **We Listen to God's Word** ✠

**Children's Message**

**Anthem**

*Chancel Choir*

O Clap Your Hands

Stanley Glarum

Clap your hands all ye people; clap your hands for He's King o'er all the earth. Shout to God with a voice of triumph.

Shout to God, for He's King o'er the earth. God is gone with the sound of the trumpet. Clap your hands all ye people;

shout to God with a voice of triumph. O'er all earth He's King! With meekness hear the gospel word with thanks his dying love record, Our joyful hearts and voices raise and fill his courts with songs of praise.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**The Epistle Lesson:** Acts 1:6-11 (NRSV)

So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, is this the time when You will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by His own authority. <sup>8</sup> But 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." <sup>9</sup> When He had said this, as they were watching, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While He was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They 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."

L: The Word of the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 47** (tune: Nettleton)

Clap Your Hands, O Faithful People!

Clap your hands, O faithful people! Shout to God a song of praise!  
The Most High our land has ransomed and will reign as Lord always!

Great the majesty around us, sure the paths our feet have trod;  
We are claimed as sons and daughters, children of a gracious God.

With a shout and blast of trumpet, God ascends to reign above,  
Clothed in robes of righteous judgment,  
crowned with all redeeming love!

Fill the world with glad rejoicing; heaven shall sing,  
and earth reply!

Let the nations rise in wonder all God's works to glorify!

† **The Gospel Lesson:** Luke 24:44-53 (NRSV)

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."

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> 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 <sup>47</sup> and that repentance

and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these

things. <sup>49</sup> 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." <sup>50</sup> Then He led them out as far as

Bethany, and, lifting up His hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While He was blessing them, He withdrew from them and was carried up

into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped Him and returned to

Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup> and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

L: This is the Holy Gospel of Christ!     **P: Thanks be to God!**

### **Sermon**

#### ***Life-Giving Words from an Empty Tomb – PROMISE***

#### **✠ We Respond to God's Word ✠**

† **Hymn of Response**

#839

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

O what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God

Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*Refrain: This is my story, this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight.  
Angels descending bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]

Perfect submission, all is at rest  
I in my Savior am happy and blest.  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love. [Refrain]

† **Affirmation of Faith**

*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.**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Offering Acknowledgement**    *Special Offering: Backpack Ministry*

† **Doxology**

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

† **Prayer of Dedication**

✦ **The Lord's Supper** ✦

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

**Great Thanksgiving**

L: The Lord be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**P: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

It is right . . . Hear us, gracious God, as we join creation's song and  
sing Your eternal praise:

**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. Hosanna in the highest.**

. . . With thanksgiving, we celebrate the good news bringing great  
joy in celebration of an empty tomb as we proclaim the mystery of  
faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. (2x)**

Gracious God, pour out Your Holy Spirit.... Through Christ, all glory  
and honor are Yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the  
holy church, now and forever.

**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

## The Breaking of the Bread

### Communion of the People

*(As you are presented with the bread and cup this morning please eat the piece of bread individually and retain the cup until all have received it so that we may take it together.)*

### Prayer After Communion

✠ **We Are Sent in God's Name** ✠

### † Hymn of Sending

#269

#### Lead On, O King Eternal

Lead on, O King eternal! The day of march has come;  
henceforth in fields of conquest Your tents shall be our home.  
Through days of preparation Your grace has made us strong,  
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace;  
for not with swords' loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums;  
with deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal: we follow, not with fears,  
for gladness breaks like morning where'er Your face appears;  
Your cross is lifted o'er us; we journey in its light.  
The crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might!

### Postlude

#### A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Helmut Walcha

### † Charge & Benediction

† *Standing as you are able.*

#### **SERVING TODAY**

Head Usher: *Jan Holbrook*

Liturgist: *Nancy Compton*

## LAST WEEK'S RECAP

Attendance: 82  
General Offering: \$1,967.00  
CAREs: \$120.00  
Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$20.00  
Online Offering: \$234.35  
**Total Offering: \$2,341.35**

## IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

### ↪ SUNDAY, JUNE 1

Sunday Morning Study, 9:28 a.m.  
Armchair Theologians, 9:30 a.m.  
Harmony of the Gospels, 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship, 10:50 a.m.  
**End of Year Celebration, Noon**  
**Genesis Bible Study, 5:30 p.m.**

### ↪ WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m./Bob Evans  
Zumba Class, 5 p.m.  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.

### ↪ THURSDAY, JUNE 5

Paper Angels, 1:30 p.m.

### ↪ SATURDAY, JUNE 7

Zumba Class, 9:30 a.m.

### Important Announcement!



Beginning on Sunday, July 6, the church will start airing worship services live only on the church YouTube page. We will no longer be live streaming to Facebook. Please subscribe to the church YouTube channel by going to [youtube.com/@FirstPresbyterianAshlandKY](https://youtube.com/@FirstPresbyterianAshlandKY).

## Class of 2025

Congratulations to our graduating high school senior, Andrew Smithson. Andrew, the son of Robert and Kim Smithson, graduated from Boyd County High School. We are excited to celebrate this milestone with him as he prepares for his next chapter at Ashland Community Technical College. Please join us in acknowledging Andrew's achievement and offering our support for his future endeavors.

## Children's End of Year Celebration

You are invited to join in a celebration of our children's ministry, **today** following our worship service. We will gather in the Bethesda Community Hall for a luncheon and fellowship as we recognize the faithfulness of our kids and their hard work this past school year. Everyone is invited!

## Pentecost Sunday

**Next Sunday, June 8, is Pentecost Sunday! To celebrate the birthday of the church, we encourage everyone to wear red to the service.**

## Let's Celebrate Our Pastor's Birthday!

Pastor Bill's birthday is June 12. We will celebrate his birthday in the narthex immediately following morning worship on **Sunday, June 15**. A basket will be available for cards and/or other expressions of appreciation (no candy please).



## Festival of Trees 2025

The Christian Education Ministry Team is planning to display a Christmas tree in the Paramount's annual Festival of Trees this year (2025). The theme of our tree will be "Earth Care." The ornaments will be made by our youth from recycled materials, and this is where we need your help. We would like to have these items donated: **newspapers, puzzle pieces, old Christmas cards, empty thread spools, blue, green or white yarn, and bottles of Elmer's glue by June 29**. We plan to start making these ornaments at Parent's Night Out (July 25). All are welcome to help. Thank you in advance for your help! Please see Jane Justice or Heather Shay if you have any questions.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### **Week ending May 29, 2025**

Family of John Paul Barker  
Baby Bronson Bester (Jane Ann Goodwin)  
Beth Clifton (Mike Lilly)  
Cullen Creel (online request)  
Family of Jerry Hall (Geri Willis' brother)  
Don Lilly  
Betty Jean Phipps

### **Week ending May 22, 2025**

Susan Martell  
Skip Saunders  
Storm Victims and their families

### **Week ending May 15, 2025**

Steve Murray (online request)

**Ongoing:** Pastor Bill; Gretchen Dillon; Bill Gesling; Lee Hall;  
Charlie Holbrook; Kenny McGill; Bob Miller; Derek Payne; Nancy  
Payne; Bonnie Pettijohn; Tim Shephard; Kim Whitman; Jan  
Winans; Ann Wiseman

**Kingsbrook Care Center:** Barry Barbour

**The Lantern:** Carolyn Graber

**Military:** Erik Adkins (USAF Reserves, son of Kris Adkins);  
Cadet Katie Brown (West Point, granddaughter of Kim & Mike  
Whitman); Greg Weston (Army National Guard); Major Kaitlin  
Whitmore (US Army, niece of Don & Judy Lilly)

## STAFF

Minister: *Rev. William Pollack*  
Choirmaster/Organist: *Max Jackson*  
Administrative Assistant: *Nanette Pollack*  
Facilities Manager: *Glen Thomas*  
Nursery Attendant: *Kara Adkins*

## SESSION MEMBERS

President of Congregation: *Mitch Hall*  
Secretary of Congregation/Clerk of Session: *Kelly Hanni*  
Treasurer: *Cathy Wilson*

2025	2026	2027
<i>Kelly Hanni</i>	<i>Mitch Hall*</i>	<i>Jimmy Hall</i>
<i>Kim Whitman</i>	<i>Jan Holbrook</i>	<i>Lee McCloud *</i>
<i>Geri Willis</i>	<i>Ryan Whitman*</i>	<i>J.T. Norris *</i>
*2nd term of service		

## MINISTRY TEAMS

Building & Grounds: <i>Glen Thomas</i>	Membership: <i>Kim Whitman</i>
Christian Education: <i>Lee McCloud</i>	Mission: <i>Geri Willis</i>
Congregational Life: <i>Cathy Wilson</i>	Personnel: <i>Janet Holbrook</i>
Finance: <i>Trish Hall</i>	Worship: <i>Ryan Whitman</i>

To visit the church website, scan the code below.



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