

Order for the Public Worship of God

The Fifth Day of June, Two Thousand and Eleven

Ascension Sunday

8:15 and 11:00 a.m. • The Sanctuary

*As you enter the Sanctuary, please assume a quiet and respectful attitude of worship.
Please silence your mobile devices.*

PIANO PRELUDE: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" CWM RHONDA
Lenora Morrow, pianist

CALL TO WORSHIP A. Mitchell Moore

✦HYMN OF ASCENSION: No. 290 "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise" LLANFAIR

✦READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 24:44-53 Olin F. Morris (8:15)
David T. Popwell (11:00)

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
and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."
Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,
and said to them,

**"Thus it is written,
that the Christ should suffer
and on the third day rise from the dead,
and that repentance and forgiveness of sins
should be proclaimed in his name to all nations,
beginning from Jerusalem.**

You are witnesses of these things.

**And behold,
I am sending the promise of my Father upon you.
But stay in the city
until you are clothed with power from on high."**

Then he led them out as far as Bethany,
and lifting up his hands he blessed them.
While he blessed them,
he parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

**And they worshiped him
and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,
and were continually in the temple blessing God.**

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE LLANFAIR

**Hymns of glory let us sing; Alleluia!
Songs throughout the world shall ring; Alleluia!
By a road before untrod; Alleluia!
Christ ascends the throne of God. Alleluia!**

✦PRAYER OF ADORATION

READING FROM THE EPISTLES Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through
the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.
For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our
weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are,
yet without sin.

**Let us then with confidence
draw near to the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy
and find grace to help in time of need.**

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord Jesus Christ,
our great High Priest,
Who has ascended to the right hand of God
to make intercession for us,
have mercy upon us,
for we have sinned against You
and have done that which is evil in Your sight.
Forgive our foolishness and our hard-heartedness.
Cleanse us from our sin and renew a right spirit within us,
that we might worship and serve You aright
as the King of kings and Lord of lords,
now and forevermore. Amen.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

✦HYMN OF GRATITUDE: “Before the Throne of God Above” Bancroft/Cook

**Before the throne of God above,
I have a strong and perfect plea:
A great High Priest whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands.
My name is written on His heart.
I know that while in heav’n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.**

**When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there,
Who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free,
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me,
To look on Him and pardon me.**

**Behold Him there the Risen Lamb,
My perfect spotless Righteousness,
The great unchangeable I Am,
The King of Glory and of grace.
One with Himself I cannot die;
My soul is purchased by His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Savior and my God,
With Christ my Savior and my God.**

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS TO THE ASCENDED CHRIST Michael G. Stokke

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: “Death Shall Not Destroy My Comfort” . . . arr. Mack Wilberg

Death shall not destroy my comfort, Christ shall guide me thro’ the gloom;
Down He’ll send some heav’nly convoy, to escort my spirit home.

*O, hallelujah! How I love my Savior, O, hallelujah! That I do.
O, hallelujah! How I love my Savior, mourners you may love Him too.*

Jordan’s stream shall not o’erflow me, while my Savior’s by my side;
Canaan, Canaan, lies before me! Soon I’ll cross the swelling tide.

See the happy spirits waiting on the banks beyond the stream!
Sweet responses still repeating, Jesus! Jesus! is their theme.

*The Westminster Singers (8:15) · The Chancel Choir (11:00)
Gabriel C. Statom, Director of Music*

O sweet and blessed country, the home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country that eager hearts respect!
Jesus in mercy bring us to that dear land of rest,
Who are, with God the Father and Spirit, ever blest.

O God, Who freely gives us all blessings to enjoy,
The blessed hope of heaven, pure joy without alloy,
We humbly bow before Thee, our all to Thee resign.
The kingdom, power, and glory are, Lord, forever Thine.

✦ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

✦ GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN (8:15)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND 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.**

READING FROM THE EPISTLES Philippians 3:17-4:1
(page 981 in pew Bible)

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field;
**The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the Word of our God will stand forever. Amen.** (Isaiah 40:6b, 8)

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Saints Bound for Heaven" arr. Parker and Shaw

Our bondage it shall end, by and by.
From Egypt's yoke set free,
Hail the glorious jubilee,
And to Canaan we'll return by and by.

Our Deliv'rer He shall come, by and by.
And our sorrows have an end
With our three-score years and ten,
And vast glory crown the day, by and by.

And when to Jordan's floods we are come,
Jehovah rules the tide and the waters He'll divide,
And the ransom'd host shall shout we are come,
They shall shout, we are come.

Then with all the happy throng
We'll rejoice, we'll rejoice!
Shouting glory to our King,
Till the vaults of Heaven ring,
And thro' all eternity we'll rejoice, we'll rejoice!

SERMON *Living for Another World* Sanders L. Willson

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

✦ HYMN OF ETERNAL LIFE: "Shall We Gather at the River" Robert Lowry

**Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?**

*Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

**On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
We will talk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.**

**Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.**

**Soon we'll reach the silver river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.**

✦BENEDICTION

✦CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: Improvisation on "Shall We Gather at the River" . . . arr. L. Morrow

✦Indicates congregation standing

CCLI License #252778

We consider it a privilege to have our children in worship with us. If your small children become restless and vocal, we invite you to the children's room especially designed for them at the rear of the Sanctuary. They are also welcome in the nursery. Older children should also be encouraged to come to church prepared to stay in their pew throughout the service.

One of our pastors will be available after the service to pray for you or to offer helpful direction regarding your spiritual life. He will be in the Gathering Room, which is the first room on your left as you exit the southwest door of the Sanctuary (closest to the pulpit). You may also send your confidential email to pastor@2pc.org with questions about your spiritual life.

Sunday Night Worship - 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

New Series Begins Tonight: Summer of Love

Musicians throughout the ages have led our cultural chorus in commenting on and questioning love: *What is love? Want to know what love is? Love hurts? Is love enough? Love is the answer? That is the power of love? Stop, in the name of love?*

This Summer we will plumb to the depths of Love Himself as we study what God's Word says about who God is, His love for His people, and the implications for our lives. Please join our church family for these enriching times of worship!