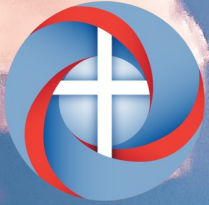


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO

# Ascension Sunday



Sunday, May 24  
10:45 service

Prelude

*Elegiac Pastoral*

Franklin D. Ashdown (b. 1942)

Welcome

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Opening Hymn

*Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise*

UMH 312

Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!  
to his throne beyond the skies. Alleluia!  
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, Alleluia!  
enters now the highest heaven. Alleluia!

There for him high triumph waits; Alleluia!  
lift your heads, eternal gates. Alleluia!  
He has conquered death and sin; Alleluia!  
take the King of glory in. Alleluia!

Highest heaven its Lord receives; Alleluia!  
yet he loves the earth he leaves. Alleluia!  
Though returning to his throne, Alleluia!  
still he calls us all his own. Alleluia!

Still for us he intercedes; Alleluia!  
his atoning death he pleads, Alleluia!  
near himself prepares our place, Alleluia!  
he the first fruits of our race. Alleluia!

There we shall with you remain, Alleluia!  
partners of your endless reign, Alleluia!  
see you with unclouded view, Alleluia!  
find our heaven of heavens in you. Alleluia!

Life of the Community

Call to Worship

Hope Crockett

Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with loud songs of joy!  
For God has ascended with shouts of triumph,  
and trumpet fanfare!

**Our God is exalted on high,  
Sovereign over all the nations,  
and Lord of our lives.  
Let's worship together.**

Children's Moment

Reverend Ann Duncan

Invitation to the Offering

Reverend Ann Duncan

Offertory Prayer

Reverend Ann Duncan

Our kind Heavenly Father, we rejoice in your faithfulness! As you promised, your glorious Spirit inspires a new way of life through the church of Jesus Christ. We trust that as we continue to devote ourselves to prayer, you will strengthen our congregation in mission outreach. Direct all our gifts and offerings for the purposes of your kingdom, O God. We pray through Christ, who ascended on high to your eternal throne in the heavens. Amen.

Offertory

*Organ Trio on "For the Beauty of the Earth"* Daniel Berghout (b. 1967)

Doxology

*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH No. 94

Pastoral Prayer

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Risen Christ, we thank you for your resurrection power to rise this morning. We are grateful for another day that we can live and love one another. As we come before you today, we come with a mixture of praise and thanksgiving, and also concerns.

We praise your name and thank you for all our many blessings. In this time of social distancing, we have discovered much for which we give thanks. Most of all, we are thankful that we belong to a loving, risen saviour, and our lives are hidden in you.

Risen Saviour, we come to you because, in spite of all you have given us, our souls feel numb and empty. We confess our pandemic weariness. Our illusions of control have been shattered by the never-ending threat of the coronavirus. We have discovered that so much of what we did that gave that our lives meaning is now gone. All we can see is the mess that we humans have made of your world. We finally see the weak, the vulnerable and the poor, and we are grieved by their plight. Lord, we feel powerless to do anything about what we see. Give us the courage to defend the weak and feed the poor. Give us the tenacity to advocate for housing for the unhoused and mental health assistance for those whose minds have snapped from the weight of poverty. Help us to see how we participate in the systems that keep people oppressed and depressed. Help us to understand that when we really love you and love ourselves, we will eradicate all poverty, and justice will flow like a river. Don't let boredom, quarantine fatigue, and legitimate apprehension about the future swallow up our lives and love for you and one another.

Risen Christ, as our country slowly opens, we have fears that the easing of restrictions will only mean more pain for the vulnerable because they have not been given adequate PPE or training to remain safe. We are concerned that our leaders are ignoring science, and that until there is a cure we may expose ourselves to the virus. We are concerned that our already depressed economy will come to a halt. Omniscient Christ, we lift these concerns to you. Lift our eyes and allow us to see how you are already moving in the world. Let us praise you for the innovation and goodwill that is emerging. We are grateful that some distilleries have decided to make disinfectants. We thank you that those who have very little have come to the aid of others and have begun making masks and shipping them around the world. We thank you that churches are converting their campuses for housing the poor. We thank you that while we have been sheltering in-place, we have re-envisioned work, life, and love, and have begun creating a beloved community. Holy One, revive us, renew us, restore us, and raise us once again for your service. May your Holy Spirit be our companion. May the fruit of the Spirit: peace, patience, gentleness, kindness, and self-control, rise from within us outwardly to transform our lives and the world. Amen.



## Lord's Prayer

Our 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 trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Anthem

### *How Firm A Foundation*

arr. Alice Parker (b. 1925)

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said—  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed,  
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
Upheld by My gracious, omnipotent hand.

“When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
For I will be with thee thy trouble to bless,  
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not harm thee; I only design  
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.

“The soul that on Jesus doth lean for repose,  
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.”

## Scripture

*John 17:1-11*

Nancy Glaser

## Hymn

### *See How Great a Flame Aspires*


UMH 541 v. 1-2

See how great a flame aspires,  
Kindled by a spark of grace.  
Jesus' love the nations fires,  
Sets the kingdoms on a blaze:  
To bring fire on earth He came;  
Kindled in some hearts it is;  
O that all might catch the flame,  
All partake the glorious bliss!

When He first the work begun,  
Small and feeble was His day:  
Now the word doth swiftly run;  
Now it wins its widening way:  
More and more it spread and grows,  
Ever mighty to prevail;  
Sin's strongholds it now o'erthrows,  
Shakes the trembling gates of hell.

Sons of God, your Savior praise,  
who the door hath opened wide;  
He hath given the word of grace,  
Jesus' word is glorified;  
Jesus, mighty to redeem,  
He alone the work hath wrought;  
Worthy is the work of Him,  
Him Who spake a world from naught.

Saw ye not the cloud arise,  
Little as a human hand?  
Now it spreads along the skies,  
Hangs o'er all the thirsty land.  
Lo! the promise of a shower  
Drops already from above;  
But the Lord will shortly pour  
All the spirit of His love.





Message

*Vaccinations for the Coronavirus: Eternal Life*

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Closing Hymn

*Jesus Shall Reign*

UMH 157

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does its successive journeys run;  
his kingdom spread from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns;  
all prisoners leap and loose their chains;  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blest.

To Jesus endless prayer be made,  
and endless praises crown his head;  
his name like sweet perfume shall rise  
with every morning sacrifice.

Let every creature rise and bring  
honors peculiar to our King;  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud amen!

People and realms of every tongue  
dwell on his love with sweetest song;  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.

Benediction

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

*Alleluia*

UMH 186

Postlude

*Toccata on "Amazing Grace"*

Christopher Pardini (b. 1973)

