

# ASCENSION

//ACTS 1:9

First United Methodist Church

Pastor Chris Hardy

**June 2, 2019**  
**Ascension of the Lord Sunday**  
**Our Mission: to love God and love others**

## **Greeting & Announcements**

### **Gathering Meditation**

"Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.' You are witnesses of all these things." – Jesus, Luke 24:46-48

### **Prelude & Lighting of the Candles**

By the power of the Holy Spirit open our minds to the Word, your Son, who comes to us as one of us and ascends to the heavens to remain with us. **Amen.**

### **\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Jesus Christ is the Ruler of all rulers.

**People: Exalt the name of Jesus!**

Leader: Jesus Christ is the Lord of all lords.

**People: Exalt the name of Jesus!**

Leader: Jesus Christ is the name above all names.

**People: Exalt the name of Jesus!**

### **\*Praise Song**

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

MercyMe

### **\*Opening Prayer**

**God of all glory, as we come to know your Son through the living word of scripture, enlighten our hearts with the spirit of wisdom and revelation. Remind us again of Christ's authority over the church at all times and in all places. Renew in us again our purpose as Christ's followers: to proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus Christ to all people in all places. All glory and honor be to you, Christ Jesus. Amen.**

**Children's Message**  
**† Coins for Kids**

Pastor Chris

**\*Hymn** "I Love to Tell the Story" #156

**Reading of Holy Scripture** Acts 1:1-11 (NLT)

**Message** "Working Hard or Hardly Working?" Pastor Chris

**\*Communion Hymn** "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" (v. 1-4) #302

**Invitation**

Let us come before God with contrite hearts, acknowledging our sin and trusting in forgiveness.

**Confession**

**Merciful God, day be day we have failed to believe in your presence and your promised forgiveness. We have not trusted in your power to give the riches we cannot see. We have not honored our sisters and brothers as heirs of your desired peace. We have not forgiven others or ourselves. Give us the wisdom and faith to be your body on earth, that we may rejoice in the presence of your saving bounty, to the glory of your ascended Son. Amen.**

**Pardon**

By the power of the Holy Spirit, as a witness to the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus and the assurance of pardon in Jesus' name, I proclaim to you the forgiveness of all your sins, that with renewed life you may serve this creation and the people of God in peace and strength. God is with you.

**And also with you. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

 **Giving of our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

**\*Doxology** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" #95

### **\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Bless these gifts, O Lord of all, that we might worship you with great joy and serve your people with great love. In Christ's name. Amen.**

**\*Communion Hymn** "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" (v. 5-6) #302

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. You have given us the spirit of wisdom and revelation so that, with the eye of our hearts enlightened, we might know the hope to which you have called us.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. You put your power to work in him when you raised him from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at your right hand.

Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood, for you have put all things under his feet and have made him head over all things for his church.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at the heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **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 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.**

## **†Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Communion Song

"The Table"

Chris Tomlin

Communion Song

"Your Royal Blood"

Rend Collective

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Empower us to be the body of Christ here on earth. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **\*Hymn**

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

#384

## **\*Postlude**

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\*Please stand if you are able

†Each Sunday our children will be accepting coin donations that will benefit a ministry or project of their choosing.

✚A second offering will be received benefiting the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

†Communion will be served by intinction. The United Methodist Church celebrates an open table and all are welcome to receive God's gift of grace.

Today's bulletins are sponsored by Shap & Carolyn  
in celebration of friends & family with birthdays this month



“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere ~ in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

~ Jesus Christ

## [You're Welcome Here](#)

Here at our church we extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, straight, filthy rich, comfortable, dirt poor, have lived here for decades, just moved in, or are passing on through.

We extend a special welcome to those that are newly married, never married, married again, or married for longer than they can even remember... or choose to remember. We welcome families of all shapes and sizes, those with one child that is as quiet as a mouse, those with a whole basketball team, and even moms and dads with crying new-born babies.

You're welcome here if you can sing like Garth Brooks or if you can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing,' just woke up or just got out of prison. Those that serve in our military or work in our community as first responders, you're welcome here, too. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Bishop of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference, or if you haven't been in church since your little nephew's baptism.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit moms, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters and food connoisseurs.

We welcome those who are in recovery or are still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps. We welcome you even if don't like 'organized religion' or you call yourself 'spiritual.'

If you blew all your money on the horses or the blackjack table, you're welcome here, too. We offer a welcome to those who work too hard, don't work at all, can't spell, or come just because grandma is in town and she made you go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost on route 191 and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts, and all those at different locations on their own journey of faith... and we welcome you!

We hope that you'll visit us for worship on Sunday at 11:00 and consider making us a part of your family. You're welcome here.

[www.firstumcbangor.com](http://www.firstumcbangor.com)