



**First
Presbyterian
Church**
Henderson, Texas

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

— *Gathering* —

WELCOME

Rev. Michele R. Goff

OPENING SENTENCES

The Lord Jesus Christ has risen to reign; *his is the name above all names.*

LITANY FOR ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with songs of joy.

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them to the Lord.*

God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them to the Lord.*

God is ruler over all the earth; the Lord reigns on a holy throne.

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them to the Lord.*

God put this power to work in Christ, raising him from the dead.

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them to the Lord.*

God has highly exalted him, giving him the name above all names.

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them to the Lord.*

Jesus Christ is Lord! Glory to God in the highest.

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them to the Lord.*

HYMN #267 (150)

“Come Christians Join to Sing”

Batterman, 1843

(Alternate hymn numbers are for the old blue hymnals.)

CONFESSION

Trusting that God will receive us with grace, let us return to the risen Christ, who sits in the place of honor beside the heavenly throne.

You call us to be your witnesses to the ends of the earth and clothe us with power from on high. Yet we stand still, our eyes fixed on the heavens, as though Jesus will reappear in the clouds to point the way. We cling to the past, for we find comfort in familiar traditions, even if they no longer serve your purposes. We fear the future, for we cannot imagine a new season of ministry, even though you promise to empower us. Refocus us, O Lord, and fill us with expectant hope as we step into the future you will bring. Baptize us again with your Spirit and enlighten our hearts to discern your will, so that we might embody the fullness of Christ at work in the world.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Saints of God, may you always know the hope to which God has called you, for you have received a glorious inheritance—God’s power working among us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! *Thanks be to God.*

— Word —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Our first reading is from the book of Acts chapter 1, verses 1-11. Christ has opened our minds to understand the scriptures. Hear the word of the Lord.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. *Thanks be to God.*

Our second reading is from the gospel according to Luke chapter 24, verses 44 through 53. The word of God for the people of God.

We are witnesses to these things—the good news of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Michele R. Goff

DESCRIPTION OF PRAISE

— Response —

HYMN #268 (151)

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Bridges, 1851

(Alternate hymn numbers are for the old blue hymnals.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We offer our prayers through Christ, who lives and reigns forever, and prays for us in heaven. Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

~~~ prayers ~~~

God of all power and glory, receive these prayers, and continue your mighty work among us, through Jesus Christ, our living Lord. *Amen.*

**LORD’S PRAYER—UNISON**

*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.*

— Sending —

**BLESSING AND CHARGE**

May the love of the holy triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—abide with you forever.  
*Alleluia!*

Now go forth in Jesus’ name, remembering his new commandment to love one another, just as he has loved us. *Amen.*

**HYMN #263 (143)**

**“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”**

Rippon, 1787

*(Alternate hymn numbers are for the old blue hymnals.)*

*“Serving God, Honoring Creation, Embracing Differences”*

