

Ascension of the Lord/7th Sunday of Easter – May 12, 2024 – 10:30am

Order of Worship

The Community Gathers

Lighting of Altar Candles

Prelude -

A Word of Greeting and Welcome/Centering Words ~ Minister Ainise Isama'u

Why stare at the heavens to find God? Look within, for God's Spirit is there. Look around, for Christ's disciples are all around.

Opening Hymn* - *"Hail Thou Once Despised Jesus"* UMH 325 Angela Gricar

Giving God Glory As We Come To Worship

Call to Worship (L: Leader P: People)- Kaira Mark-Schwiebert

L: Clap your hands and sing for joy!

P: Christ is in our midst and in our lives.

L: Clap your hands and sing for joy!

P: Christ calls us to worship and praise.

L: Let's worship together.

Opening Prayer Kaira Mark-Schwiebert

Risen Christ, be present in our lives and in our worship. Help us recognize and celebrate your presence. Grant us the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may answer the call to be your disciples and bring your message of love to the world. Amen.

Message for the Children (In Us All) Minister Ainise Isama'u

The Word of God for the people of God

Congregational Hymn – *"Because He Lives"* UMH 364 Angela Gricar

Scripture Lesson: John 17:6-19 Kaira Mark-Schwiebert

⁶"I have revealed your name to the people you gave me from this world. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸This is because I gave them the words that you gave me, and they received them. They truly understood that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

⁹“I’m praying for them. I’m not praying for the world but for those you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰Everything that is mine is yours and everything that is yours is mine; I have been glorified in them. ¹¹I’m no longer in the world, but they are in the world, even as I’m coming to you. Holy Father, watch over them in your name, the name you gave me, that they will be one just as we are one. ¹²When I was with them, I watched over them in your name, the name you gave to me, and I kept them safe. None of them were lost, except the one who was destined for destruction, so that scripture would be fulfilled. ¹³Now I’m coming to you and I say these things while I’m in the world so that they can share completely in my joy. ¹⁴I gave your word to them and the world hated them, because they don’t belong to this world, just as I don’t belong to this world. ¹⁵I’m not asking that you take them out of this world but that you keep them safe from the evil one. ¹⁶They don’t belong to this world, just as I don’t belong to this world. ¹⁷Make them holy in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹I made myself holy on their behalf so that they also would be made holy in the truth.

L: The Word of God for all people

P: Thanks be to God

Special Music – *“Glory in the Cross”*

Faith Chancel Choir

Sermon: ~ *“How Shall We Love?”*

Rev. Allison Mark

Pastoral Prayer/Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Allison Mark

We Respond to God’s grace

Offering Our Gifts ~

Minister Ainise Isama’u

Doxology* *“Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones” UMH 90*

Angela Gricar

***Offertory – Prayer of Dedication**

Kaira Mark-Schwiebert

Glorious God, may these gifts bring glory to you and grace to your world. May our lives and our ministry reflect your love, and may we spread your message of love throughout the world. Amen.

Going Forth in God's Holy Name

Faith In Action – The Ministry of Faith UMC –

Minister Ainise Isama’u

Closing Hymn* ~ *“Easter People, Raise Your Voices” UMH 304* Angela Gricar

Commission and Blessings * -

Rev. Allison Mark

Passing of the Peace* - Postlude