



We invite you to join us online (www.westmarketchurch.org) or by radio ([WPET 950 AM](#) & [92.7 FM](#)) to participate in worship this Sunday.

Below you will find the bulletin for the 11:00 a.m. service for the Seventh Sunday in Easter, May 12, 2024.

We come as Christ's body to honor God's presence together.

We come to share faith, hope, and love with one another.

We come to proclaim and to hear "God is with us! Thanks be to God!"

~Pastors Otto and Jeremy



May 12, 2024

**Seventh Sunday in Easter
Ascension Sunday**

11:00 a.m.

Silent Meditation

*Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked
or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers,
but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.*

Psalm 1:1-2

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE:

“Be Thou My Vision”
Drew Hays, saxophone

arr. Frackenpohl

ENTRANCE

† CALL TO WORSHIP:

Jesus Christ has ascended into the heavens and sits at your right hand
while we are down here laboring doing the best that we can to survive.

God help us!

We are keeping our heads above water,
but (God forgive us) sometimes drowning seems to be an answer.

God help us!

We keep our faith and trust in you in spite of how we are being treated.

God help us!

We are abused, misused, and accused.
For this reason, we understand more and more
that this world is not our home
and we are just strangers passing through the night.

God help us!

**God, we are your children and we need you to help us
so that our feet won't slip and our faith won't waver.**

We believe in you and trust in your Holy Word.

Do it, God! Do it today! God help us!

Curry F. Butler, Easter Liturgical Resources from Africana Writers, edited by Safiya Fosu, 2020.

† HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 312

“Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”

LLANFAIR

1. Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia! To his throne above the skies, Alleluia!
Christ, a while to mortals given, Alleluia! Re-ascends his native heaven, Alleluia!
2. There the glorious triumph waits, Alleluia! Lift your heads, eternal gates, Alleluia!
Christ hath conquered death and sin, Alleluia! Take the King of glory in, Alleluia!
3. See! the heaven its Lord receives, Alleluia! Yet he loves the earth he leaves, Alleluia!
Though returning to his throne, Alleluia! Still he calls the world his own, Alleluia!
4. See! he lifts his hands above, Alleluia! See! he shows the prints of love, Alleluia!
Hark! his gracious lips bestow, Alleluia! Blessings on his church below, Alleluia!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739

† COLLECT:

Our gracious, eternal God, we thank you for the challenges which life brings.

It also brings changes which sometimes throw us into crisis.

Be with us in such times in our Christian community.

**Like the early disciples help us in our common life to find
your guidance in our collective decisions. Amen.**

† **GLORIA PATRI:** No. 70

MEINEKE

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.***

Text: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th century

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

I present Campbell Pierson West and Carter Reed West for baptism. Parents: Chris and Allyson West

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? **I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? **I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? **I do.**

Will you nurture Campbell and Carter in Christ's holy Church, that by your teaching and example they may be guided to accept God's grace for themselves, to profess their faith openly, and to lead a Christian life? **I will.**

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ? **We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Campbell and Carter now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Campbell and Carter with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and them who receives it, to wash away their sin and clothe them in righteousness throughout their lives, that, dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in his final victory. **Amen.**

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

Campbell Pierson West, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Carter Reed West, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Now it is our joy to welcome our new brothers in Christ.

Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you as members of the family of Christ.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Members of the household of God, I commend Campbell and Carter to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in the West Market Street United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

No. 191, v.1 "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know"

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

PROCLAMATION

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN: *Please join us in singing after the Children's Message*

No. 327, v.2 "Crown Him with Many Crowns" DIADEMATA

**Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high, who died,
eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.**

Text: Matthew Bridges and Godfrey Thring

LESSON FROM THE HOLY SCRIPTURE: John 17:11-23 (NRSVue)

Reader: Larry Czarda

And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from

the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth. I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

The Word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

SERMON:

“Be One”

The Reverend Dr. Otto Harris

RESPONSE

† **RESPONSIVE HYMN:** *from The Faith We Sing*

“Bind Us Together”

Bob Gillman

**Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.
There is only one God, there is only one King;
There is only one body, that is why we sing.**

**Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.
There is only one God, there is only one King;
There is only one body, that is why we sing.**

**Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.**

Text: Bob Gillman

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of
God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

THANKSGIVING TO GOD THROUGH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS:

*For your convenience, you can give to West Market Street UMC by text message.
Text WMC to 73256. Follow prompts to complete your giving.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: “Jesus, My All, To Heaven Is Gone”
Drew Hays, saxophone

setting by Howard Helvey

*Jesus, my all, to heav'n is gone, I'll never turn back no more;
He whom I fix my hopes upon, I'll never turn back no more.
No more, no more, no more, my Lord; I'll never turn back no more.
His path I see, and I'll pursue, I'll never turn back no more;
The narrow way, till Him I view, I'll never turn back no more.
No more... Jesus, my all, to heav'n is gone.*

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† **DOXOLOGY:** No. 94 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Text: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted Gilbert H. Viera, 1978 © 1989 United Methodist Publishing House. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-730713

† **OFFERING BLESSING**

SENDING FORTH

† **HYMN OF DEDICATION:** No. 547 “O Church of God, United” ELLACOMBE

1. **O church of God, united to serve one common Lord, proclaim to all one message, with hearts in glad accord. Christ ever goes before us; we follow day by day with strong and eager footsteps along the upward way.**
2. **From every land and nation the ordered ranks appear; to serve one valiant leader they come from far and near. They chant their one confession, they praise one living Lord, and place their sure dependence upon his saving word.**
3. **Though creeds and tongues may differ, they speak, O Christ, of thee; and in thy loving spirit we shall one people be. Lord, may our faithful service and singleness of aim proclaim to all the power of thy redeeming name.**
4. **May thy great prayer be answered that we may all be one, close bound, by love united in thee, God's blessed Son: to bring a single witness, to make the pathway bright, that souls which grope in darkness may find the one true light.**

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† **BENEDICTION**

† **CHORAL BENEDICTION:** No. 670, v. 3 “Go Forth for God”

GENEVA 124

**Go forth for God, go to the world in strength; hold fast the good,
be urgent for the right; render to no one evil;
Christ at length shall overcome all darkness with his light.
Go forth for God, go to the world in strength.**

Text: John R. Peacey © 1975 Hope Publishing Co. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-730713

POSTLUDE:

“Just A Closer Walk With Thee”
Drew Hays, saxophone

arr. Frackepohl

***Our Service of Worship is ended.
Let our worship through service begin.***

† Please stand as you are able.

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under CCLI License #1874916 or is used with the composer's permission.

We welcome guest saxophonist Drew Hays to worship with us this morning. Drew teaches at Guilford College and currently serves as the Chair of the Music Department. Skilled in jazz and classical styles, Drew plays in many jazz ensembles, serves as the Music Director of the John Coltrane Jazz Workshop in High Point, NC, plays with local and regional symphonies, and tours across the US and abroad.

**The flowers for today's service are given to the Glory of God and
in recognition of Mothers everywhere.**