

Clinton First United Methodist Church  
Order of Worship for May 17, 2026  
Ascension of the Lord (White)  
Sermon: "Whose Voice Is It Anyway?"  
Pastor Ashlée Vitz

Scriptures: [Daniel 7:9-14](#), [Psalm 24:7-10](#), [Ephesians 1:15-23](#), [Luke 24:44-53](#)

One of the ways the early Church celebrated Ascension Sunday was through joyful processions; people walking, singing, praying, and celebrating Christ as King. Christ is risen! Christ reigns! And Christ still walks among His people! So let's celebrate it!

Gathering

Praise Team

["There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit"](#)

UMH #334

["The More I Seek You"](#)

["Help Is On the Way"](#)

["There Shall Be Showers of Blessing"](#)

Lighting of the Candles

We mark God's presence among us and the movement into sacred time.

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Easter people, in this season of Eastertide, we remember the blessings God gives us—the blessings of Resurrection, salvation, and new life in Christ.

**We come to praise God for the blessings of Easter!**

We recall the blessings of creation—of clean air and water, of food and shelter, of beauty and awe.

**We come to praise God for the blessings of creation!**

We share in the blessings of community—of family and friends, of church and home, of help that is given and received.

**We come to praise God for the blessings of community!**

Easter people, we gather today to remember Christ's Ascension, when Jesus was taken up into heaven while blessing his disciples, marking not the end but the next chapter of God's salvific work among us.

**We come to bless God with our praise as God continues to bless us with all that we need to live as God's Resurrection people. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Response Song / Opening Hymn

[“Living Hope”](#)

Opening Prayer

Today, Jesus, we are faced with a wonderful truth to proclaim,  
but also an awesome and uncomfortable responsibility.

We praise you and celebrate you as Ascended Lord;  
we recognize that you have authority over all things,  
but we live in a world where greed and power and violence  
seem to be in control.

And so, as you call us, we pray:

**Come as Lord, Jesus, and set the world to rights.**

We praise you and celebrate you as the Way, Truth, and Life;  
we recognize that in you our life is made whole and full;  
but we live in a world where death, brokenness, and need  
appear to be everywhere.

And so, as you call us, we pray:

**Come as Lord, Jesus, and set the world to rights.**

We praise you and celebrate you as God among us;  
we receive your invitation to live God’s dream;  
but we live in a world where dreams and hearts  
are broken daily, and hope seems all but lost.

And so, as you call us, we pray:

**Come as Lord, Jesus, and set the world to rights.**

[Lord’s Prayer](#)

UMH #271

Reading of the Psalms: The United Methodist Church uses something called the [Lectionary](#). This is a set of readings from the Psalms, Old Testament, New Testament, and Gospel set to be read on specific Sundays.

[Psalm 24:7-10](#)

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Response to the Psalm

[“To God Be the Glory”](#)

UMH #99

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

We now come to our time of sharing joys and concerns. This is when we bring real life into worship, trusting God with our joys and our burdens.

Pastoral Prayer

And all of God's people said: **Amen.**

Passing of the Peace: Having lifted up one another in prayer, we now come to the passing of the peace. This is when we greet each other in Christian love, sharing Christ's peace, remembering we do not walk this journey alone!

[“Build Your Kingdom Here”](#)

Proclamation and Response

We now come to the second of three parts of our service called proclamation and response. This is when we listen for God's Word and respond with our lives.

Old Testament Reading

First, we proclaim scripture from the Old Testament. This is when we remember the story of God's people and our shared spiritual history.

[Daniel 7:9-14](#)

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Response Song

[“His Love Endures Forever”](#)

New Testament Reading

We now come to our New Testament reading. This is when we connect the early Church's witness to our lives today.

[Ephesians 1:15-23](#)

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God**

Response Song

Having heard guidance from our Spiritual ancestors, we affirm that God's Word shapes how we live, so we respond to our New Testament reading in song!

[“Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord”](#)

Gospel Reading

We have now come to the time of our Gospel reading, and Gospel actually means good news! So we stand for the Gospel reading to honor the Good News of Jesus Christ, who is present and speaking to us through these words. This is when we center on the life and teachings of Jesus: The very heart and soul of our faith!

[Luke 24:44-53](#)

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Response to the Gospel through a Prayer of Confession: This is when we honor Christ and acknowledge the Good News we have received. So we respond with a prayer of confession; speaking honestly to God, bringing our whole selves before the Divine.

While we claim to celebrate the ascension of our Lord,  
the way we live proclaims our lack of faith  
in his power to deal with the world.  
Let us confess the incongruity between our faith and practice.  
Let us pray:

**We come, O Lord, on this day of glory to confess our lack of trust.  
While we sing of your lordship over all creation,  
we have too often acted as though you are powerless  
in the face of today's events.  
Help us to live with confidence in your presence today  
and in hope for life with you forever.**

And all God's people said:

**Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

But we do not stop at confession. We now come to our assurance of pardon! This is when we receive the Good News that we are forgiven and made new! So beloveds, hear the Good News! Christ reigns over all creation, and nothing is beyond the reach of divine love and grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, strengthened, and sent forward in hope. Thanks be to God. Amen. In the name of Christ, you are forgiven! And because your pastor is also only human, I need to hear the Good News too! Won't you please say the same to me?

**In the name of Christ, you are forgiven!**

Hallelujah! Amen!

["Jesus Loves Me"](#)

Children's Sermon

"Who's Really in Charge?"

Teen Time

"Who's Influencing You?"

[Sermon](#)

"Ascension Sunday: Whose Voice Is It Anyway?" Pastor Ashlée Vitz

Response to the Word

Invitation

["Lift High the Cross"](#)

UMH #159

Sending Forth

God is Good.

**All the time.**

All the time.

**God is good.**

Offering

“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” -2 Corinthians 9:7

[Doxology](#)

UMH #95

(A Doxology is just a short expression of praise to God.)

We praise God as the source of every blessing!

Closing Hymn

Now, beloveds, as a people who have been both challenged and encouraged, we sing as people being sent, united in purpose and our mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

“[Lord, You Give the Great Commission](#)”

UMH #584

Benediction

Postlude

“[God Be with You till We Meet Again](#)”

UMH #672