

ALLELUIA! CHRIST THE LORD HAS ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN:  
O COME, LET US ADORE HIM. ALLELUIA!



ASCENSION | STEPHEN PROCOPIO | 2020



THE CHURCH OF THE  
INCARNATION

THE SUNDAY AFTER  
ASCENSION  
JUNE 1, 2025

# *Welcome To* *The* **CHURCH** *of the* **INCARNATION**

*To all who are spiritually weary and desire rest,*

*To all who are mourning and long for comfort,*

*To all who struggle and desire victory,*

*To all who sin and need a Savior,*

*To all who are hungry and thirst for righteousness,*

*And to whomever will come,*

*This church opens her doors,*

*Offering welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

# ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

God calls us out of the world and welcomes us into his presence.  
Opening our hearts to him in love, we respond by confessing our  
sins, receiving his forgiveness, and fully devoting our lives to him in  
praise and adoration.

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Congregational responses are indicated in **boldface**.

Please stand.

Alleluia!\* Christ the Lord has ascended into heaven!

**O come let us adore him. Alleluia!**

\*Alleluia, sometimes  
spelled hallelujah, is  
a Hebrew command  
to praise God. To say  
or sing this word is  
to command those  
around you to praise  
God.

## FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

*W: Folliott S. Pierpoint; M: Conrad Kocher; Public Domain. CCLI Lic. 11069486*

For the beauty of the earth  
For the glory of the skies  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies

Lord of all to thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise

For the wonder of each hour  
Of the day and of the night  
Hill and vale and tree and flower  
Sun and moon and stars of light

For the joy of human love  
Brother sister parent child  
Friends on earth and friends above  
For all gentle thoughts and mild

For the church that evermore  
Lifteth holy hands above  
Offering up on every shore  
Her pure sacrifice of love

For yourself best gift divine  
To the world so freely giv'n  
Agent of God's grand design  
Peace on earth and joy in heav'n

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it.  
**Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord.  
**Who made heaven and earth.**

I was glad when they said to me:  
**"Let us go to the house of the Lord."**

Praise the Lord!  
**The name of the Lord be praised!**

## PRAYER FOR PURITY

Let us pray.  
**Almighty God, you bring to light things hidden in darkness, and know the shadows of our hearts; cleanse and renew us by your Spirit, that we may walk in the light and glorify your name, through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen.**

\*When we confess our sins to God we are not groveling in guilt; we are dealing with our guilt. If we deny our sins, we will never be free from them.

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN\*

. . .

*If you're able please kneel and silently confess your sins against God and your neighbor.*

Almighty God,  
**Creator of all, you marvelously made us in your image; but we have corrupted ourselves and damaged your likeness by rejecting your love and hurting our neighbors. We have done wrong and neglected to do right. We are sincerely sorry and heartily repent of our sins. Cleanse us and forgive us by the sacrifice of your Son; remake us and lead us by your Spirit, the Comforter. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*Only God can forgive sins. In announcing God's forgiveness, pastors obey Christ's command to his ministers to pronounce Christ's forgiveness on his behalf (John 20:23).

## THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS\*

. . .

*Please stand.*

## THE PSALM

Lord, open our lips.

<sup>o</sup>Psalms 51:15

***And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.<sup>o</sup>***

Alleluia! Christ the Lord has ascended into heaven:

***O come, let us adore him. Alleluia!***

\*When LORD is printed in small capital letters, it is the personal name for the one true God, the creator of heaven and earth and all things. In the original language it was likely pronounced yahweh.

<sup>Psalm 96:1</sup> Oh sing to the LORD\* a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth!

***<sup>2</sup> Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.***

<sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples!

***<sup>4</sup> For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be feared above all gods.***

<sup>5</sup> For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,  
but the LORD made the heavens.

***<sup>6</sup> Splendor and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.***

<sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

***<sup>8</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts!***

<sup>9</sup> Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;  
tremble before him, all the earth!

***<sup>10</sup> Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!  
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be  
moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."***

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.

***As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall  
be, world without end, Amen.***

Alleluia! Christ the Lord has ascended into heaven:

***O come, let us adore him. Alleluia!***

\*Since God first gathered a people to himself, a fundamental part of public worship has been that his people pray together. In the presence of God, we ask for ourselves and on behalf of others those things that are necessary for our life and salvation.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY\*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

***O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.***

Children ages 9–12 are dismissed for Children's Ministry.  
Please be seated.

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

We encounter our risen Lord in Scripture. As a people defined by God's Word, we respond to God through confession of faith, corporate prayer, and a demonstration of our reconciliation with one another in passing the peace of Christ.

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### ISAIAH 40:3-5; 27-31

After the Scripture is read:

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### REVELATION 1:1-20

After the Scripture is read:

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### MATTHEW 17:1-8

Before the Scripture is read:

***Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!***

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After the Scripture is read:

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

***Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!***

Please be seated.

## THE SERMON

Please stand.

\*The Nicene Creed has been prayed and recited since AD 325. It is the most widely used encapsulation of the essential and unifying beliefs of Christianity.

### THE NICENE CREED\*

***We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.***

***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.***

***Through him all things were made.***

***For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.***

***For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.***

***On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.***

***We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.***

***We believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic Church.***

***We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.***

\*Catholic here means that every local church founded on the gospel is part of the one universal church founded by God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

\*We close by praying together for the mission of the Church.

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE\*

*The leader will invite us to pray.*

• • •

***Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time, with one accord to make our common supplications to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will grant their requests: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.***

\*This ancient tradition is rooted in Luke 24:36-49. In these words we hear the promise that the dark side of life in the world and in us will not prevail. The power of the evil one has been overcome.

## **THE PEACE\***

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
***And also with you.***

Let us greet one another in the name of our Lord.

Greet those around you with some version of these words:  
“The peace of Christ be with you.”

Parents pick up infants - 9 year-olds from upstairs at this time.

*Please be seated.*

## **THE OFFERING**

. . .

## **OUR GREAT GOD**

*Words and music by Mac Powell and Fernando Ortega; CCLI 11069486.*

Eternal God unchanging mysterious and unknown  
Your boundless love unfailing grace and mercy shown  
Bright seraphim in ceaseless flight  
around your glorious throne  
They raise their voices day and night in praise to you  
alone

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!  
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!

Lord we are weak and frail, helpless in the storm  
Surround us with your angels hold us in your arms  
Our cold and ruthless enemy his pleasure is our harm  
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee before our sov'reign  
God

Let ev'ry creature in the sea and ev'ry flying bird  
Let ev'ry mountain ev'ry field and valley of the earth



Let all the moons and all the stars in all the universe  
Sing praises to the living God who rules them by his  
Word

*Please stand.*

## **PRaise GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW**

*Words: Thomas Ken, lasst uns erfreuen. 1674; Public domain.*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise him all creatures here below  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts  
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## **CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*God welcomes his people to feast at his table. This meal, a means of grace for all who receive by faith, is a rehearsal of the central act of the Christian faith: Christ's death on the cross — his body broken and his blood shed as a sacrifice for our sins.*

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## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Is the Father with us?

***He is!***

Is Christ among us?

***He is!***

Is the Spirit here?

***He is!***

This is our God.

***Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.***

We are his people.

***We are redeemed!***

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 him thanks and praise.***

. . .

\*Hosanna is a Hebrew word that carries a twofold meaning: to praise Jesus as the Son of God sent to save us and to cry out to Jesus for that salvation.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might  
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord**

**Hosanna,\* hosanna, in the highest  
Hosanna, hosanna, in the highest**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might  
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory**

## THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

. . .

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We are brothers and sisters through his blood.

**We have died together.**

**We will rise together.**

**We will live together.**

. . .

This is the feast of victory.

**The Lamb who was slain has begun to reign.**

**Hallelujah!**

As our Savior taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Our Father, who is in heaven,**

**hallowed be your Name.**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,**

**and forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For yours is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

I am because we are:  
**We are because he is.**

We are one body:  
**We share one bread.**

Draw near with faith:  
**Christ is the host and we are his guests.**

. . .

\*If you desire prayer  
for any reason,  
eucharistic prayer  
ministers are ready  
to pray with you  
in the lobby while  
communion is being  
served.

## THE DISTRIBUTION\*

All baptized Christians who come with faith in Christ and repentance for sin are welcome to share in this feast. If for any reason you would prefer to abstain, cross your arms over your chest, and one of the servers will pray a blessing for you.

Come forward to receive communion row by row. If you do not wish to drink from the common cup, take a small cup at the front of the aisle as you go forward. When arriving at the front of the communion line, place your hands in front of you to receive a piece of bread, and consume it. After receiving the bread, proceed to the first server to take a drink from the common cup (please do not dip your bread) or to the second server with your plastic cup to receive a pour of wine. Grape juice is available at the far right station and is available poured only.

## THE SANDS OF TIME ARE SINKING

©2001 Philip Palmertree Music. Words: Anne Cousins (based on Samuel Rutherford's letters). Music: traditional folk tune (arr. Philip Palmertree).

The sands of time are sinking  
The dawn of heaven breaks  
The summer morn I've sighed for  
The fair sweet morn awakes  
Dark, dark had been the midnight  
But dayspring is at hand  
And glory, glory dwelleth  
In Emmanuel's land

The King there in his beauty  
Without a veil is seen  
It were a well-spent journey  
Though seven deaths lay between  
The Lamb with his fair army  
Doth on Mount Zion stand  
And glory, glory dwelleth  
In Emmanuel's land

O Christ he is the fountain  
The deep sweet well of love  
The streams on earth I've tasted  
More deep I'll drink above  
There to an ocean fullness  
His mercy doth expand  
And glory, glory dwelleth  
In Emmanuel's land

The bride eyes not her garment  
But her dear Bridegroom's face  
I will not gaze at glory  
But on my King of grace  
Not at the crown he giveth  
But on his pierced hand  
The Lamb is all the glory  
Of Emmanuel's land

O I am my Beloved's  
And my Beloved is mine  
He brings a poor vile sinner  
Into his house of wine  
I stand upon his merit  
I know no other stand,  
Not e'en where glory dwelleth  
In Emmanuel's land

## **TRINITY SONG**

*Sandra McCracken. © 2016 Integrity Worship Music. CCLI License 7068847.*

Holy Father Son and Spirit  
Holy Communion Three in One  
Holy Father Son and Spirit  
Holy Communion Three in One

Come with your peace with your invitation  
Bind us together in holy love  
Come with your peace with your invitation  
Bind us together in holy love

Come with your peace with your invitation  
Bind us together in holy love  
Come with your peace with your invitation  
Bind us together in holy love

## WE WILL SAY IN THAT DAY (ISAIAH 12)

Words & Music: Wendell Kimbrough © 2016; CCLI License 11069486.

You will see there a highway from God's own hand  
That will lead back the lost to the promised land  
And the voice of the Savior will call us friends  
Saying join in the song of the Lord!

We will call back our armies return from war!  
And we'll make into plowshares our useless swords  
Very soon to forget what they once were for  
When we join in the song of the Lord

We will say in that day to the Lord, give thanks!  
We will not be afraid for he comes to save  
We will shout we will call every tribe and race  
come and join in the song of the Lord!

You will see there a banquet for sinners spread  
Where we'll sit with the Lord at the table's head  
And our Shepherd himself is our wine and bread  
And we'll join in the song of the Lord

When the remnant return to the promised land  
When the highway of God brings us home to him  
We'll be welcomed with love by our Savior friend  
And we'll join in the song of the Lord

## THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

***Almighty God, eternal Father, we have sat at your feet,  
learned from your word, and eaten from your table.  
We give you thanks and praise for accepting us into  
your family. Send us out with your blessing, to live and  
to witness for you in the power of your Spirit, through  
Jesus Christ, the Firstborn from the dead.***

***Amen.***

*Please be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE BLESSING AND COMMISSIONING

*Please stand.*

All our problems:

***We send to the cross of Christ!***

All our difficulties:

***We send to the cross of Christ!***

All the devil's works:

***We send to the cross of Christ!***

All our hopes:

***We set on the risen Christ!***

• • •

We are raised to new life with Christ. Go in his peace.  
Alleluia. Alleluia!

***Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!***

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

All children's ministry is staffed by trained and screened volunteers.

**Nursery:** Also open for parents/caretakers and infants, anytime during the service for nursing or fussy babies. Located upstairs, midway down the hall to your left. Available throughout the service. You can bring your child prior to the service. Pickup at the Peace.

**Toddler Room:** For steady walkers up to 3 years old. Located upstairs; last classroom on the right. Check-in located outside the classroom. You can bring your child prior to the service. Pickup at the Peace.

#### **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**

**3–6 years:** Atrium Level 1. Parents drop kids off upstairs; check in outside the classrooms before the service begins. Pickup at the Peace.

**6–9 years:** Atrium Level 2. Parents drop kids off upstairs; check in outside the classrooms before service begins. Pickup at the Peace.

**9–12 years: New City Catechism.** After the Collect, children will be dismissed to their class upstairs. Prior to the Lord's Supper, they will return to the service.

# NEWS AND EVENTS

## Pentecost Party

June 8 (5–7pm) Potluck picnic & BBQ competition. Bring lawn chairs, outdoor games, and blankets. For the picnic bring food for your household plus a few friends!

### Last names:

- **A–M**, main dish & dessert.
- **N–Z**, main dish & side. (BBQ counts as your main dish.)

## Connect with us!

Scan the QR code to download the app or email Charity\* for a link!



**CONFERENCES  
SIGNUP**

## Missions Conference

New Wineskins 2025 Hope for the Nations global mission conference will take place from September 17-20 at the Ridgcrest Conference Center in Black Mountain, NC. Sign up today!



**COTI  
CALENDAR**

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**June 8** Pentecost

**June 8** Last day of children’s programming, ages 3-12, for the summer

*\* Staff email addresses can be found on the back cover of the worship guide.*



Office hours: 10 to 4, Monday through Thursday  
Ring bell at Federal Street entrance

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