



DOWNTOWN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*We Live Into Jesus' Inclusive Call
to Love Every Person,
Care for Creation,
and Work for God's Justice.*

Celebration of Worship

May 17th, 2026 11:00 AM

Ascension Sunday

[Click Here to Watch](#)

*If you have a joy or concern you would like to have lifted in prayer today, please complete a **Prayer Request Card**, including the name of the person or event, and additional information you'd like to share. Prayer Requests will be collected during the **hymn following the sermon** to share with the pastor and/or Deacons.*

Prelude

Ascendit!

An improvisation

Words of Welcome

Rev. Kristina Hansen

Announcements

Grania Marcus

Chime

Introit

Over My Head

American Negro Spiritual

Please join in singing the last verse:

"Over my head, I feel healing in the air. . . There must be a God somewhere!"

***Call to Worship** (ministrymatters.org, mod.)

One: Today is Ascension Sunday when we celebrate Christ's return to God.

Many: We look up in wonder as he is lifted up into heaven!

One: But this is not a time to gaze upward. There is work to be done.

Many: Jesus calls us!

One: Jesus has entrusted the ministry of God's love to us!

Many: Let us make our hearts ready for the task ahead with prayer
and praise!

Prayer of Invocation (Taught By Love, Lavon Baylor, p. 98, mod.)

As Christ ascended to heaven, our spirits are lifted to You, O God.

Your Spirit fills all the universe.

We dwell within your embrace and are grateful for your watchful care.

You are with us here, choosing us as disciples and instructing us
in the way we go.

Focus our limited understanding on the person of Jesus,

that all he did and taught might come alive in us during this hour.

Then guide us so that what we learn may show through in our lives.

Hear our earnest prayer as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us
to pray together...

† Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo
through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples
of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom, sustain our hope and come
on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, Now and forever.

Amen.

*Hymn

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!
(Music may be found on page 8.)

DEO GRACIAS

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (Source unknown)

Merciful God, forgive us

when we choose to keep our eyes closed

when we fail to look for your presence

when we fail to see what you so readily reveal to us.

As we come to worship today – to be present with the living Christ
and to accept Christ's redeeming love – make us whole again.

We offer ourselves to you with open and humble hearts
As we pray in the name of the Risen Christ.

(A moment of silence is observed for listening and personal prayer.)

One: God calls each of us by name, bidding us to stay in God's presence.

Many: We are covered by God's grace and mercy!

We are loved unconditionally! Alleluia! Amen.

First Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

Time with Young Disciples

Rev. Hansen

Music for Reflection

Shadow and Substance

Daniel Charles Damon

*"Shadow and substance, wonder and mystery,
spellbinding spinner of atoms and earth;
Soul of the cosmos, person and energy,
Source of our being, we sing of your worth.*

*We are your image, formed in community;
Each of us kin of Adam and Eve.
You gave us color, custom and history;
teach us to honor what others receive.*

*Naming the nameless, Spirit of unity,
scanning the heavens for signs of your care;
God of the ages, give us humility;
guide us to mystical union in prayer."*

New Testament Reading

Acts 1:1-11

Sermon

Being Salted Together

Rev. Hansen

*Hymn

A Little Bit of Salt

LEONI

1. A little bit of salt will quickly show its worth;
A little bit of faithfulness will change the earth.
God, make us worth our salt — a church that's glad to be
The change that you desire in each community.

2. When worship leads us out to love and serve the poor,
To welcome in the immigrant* at our own door,
O God, then we'll be called "repairers of the breach,"
And we your church will be "restorers of the streets."

3. It's tempting to remain well-hidden, quiet, bland —
Yet, God, you make us salt and light to change this land.
You send us out to love, to build and to repair,
Till peace and justice flourish here and everywhere.

Biblical References: Matthew 5:13-16, 25:31-46; Isaiah 58:1-12

Tune: Traditional Hebrew melody ("The God of Abraham Praise")

Text: Copyright © 2017 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

Permission is given for free use of this hymn to churches helping refugees and immigrants.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for Healing and Justice

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music

On a Clear Day

Burton Lane

*"On a clear day, rise and look around you
and you'll see who - just who you are.*

*On a clear day, how it will astound you
that the glow of your being outshines every star.*

*You feel part of every mountain, sea, and shore;
You can hear from far and near a world you've never heard before.
And on a clear, on that clear day, you can see forevermore."*

Text: Alan J. Lerner

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Let songs rise up from earth below;

Let stars and galaxies enthrone;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One! Amen.

Prayer of Dedication *(Rev. Karen Eiler)*

O God, we recognize that everything we have, and everything we are,
all comes from you. Bless the gifts we return to you. Use them,
and use us, to build and establish your reign on earth
until Christ comes in glory. Amen.

*Hymn

Jesus Calls Us

GALILEE

(Verses 1, 3 and 4—Music may be found on page 9.)

Benediction

Postlude

Improvisation on Galilee

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us extend the Peace of Christ to one another.



Thank you to...

Rev. Kristina Hansen

Liturgist: Grania Marcus

Musicians: Alan Jones and Lee Wright

Live Stream Team: Don Fairman, David McDowell, Jim Parks, Sally Allison

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Coming up at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, May 17

9:45AM Sunday Forum, Hybrid
10:00AM Musicians Warm-up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship—Music Sunday
11:15AM Sunday School
12:00PM Refreshments, Sanctuary
7:00PM Sophia Circle via Zoom

Tuesday, May 19

10:30AM Psalms+ Bible Study

Wednesday, May 20

4:30PM Sunday Forum Team Mtg,
Zoom

Thursday, May 21

10:00AM Personnel Meeting, Hybrid

Sunday, May 24

10:00AM Musicians Warm-up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship
12:00PM Refreshments, Sanctuary

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day-Building Closed



258 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New songs through-
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the
 3 To all, the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and
 4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the
 5 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to



out the world shall ring: Christ, by a road be -
 Mount of Ol - ives stand, and with his fol - low -
 gaze up - on the sky? This is the Sav - ior!"
 por - tals of the sky. Here - af - ter you shall
 you let earth ac - cord. You are, while end - less



fore un - trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.
 ers they see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.
 thus they say; "This is his glo - rious tri - umph - day."
 Je - sus see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."
 a - ges run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.

These stanzas have been crafted from various English translations of a much longer Latin hymn preserved in an 11th-century manuscript in the British Museum. This text celebrating Christ's majesty is well set to a 15th-century English tune commemorating a military victory.

TEXT: The Venerable Bede, 7th–8th cent.; trans. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978, alt.
 MUSIC: "The Agincourt Song," c. 1415; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 2012
 Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship (admin. Augsburg Fortress)
 Music Harm. © 2012 Alfred V. Fedak

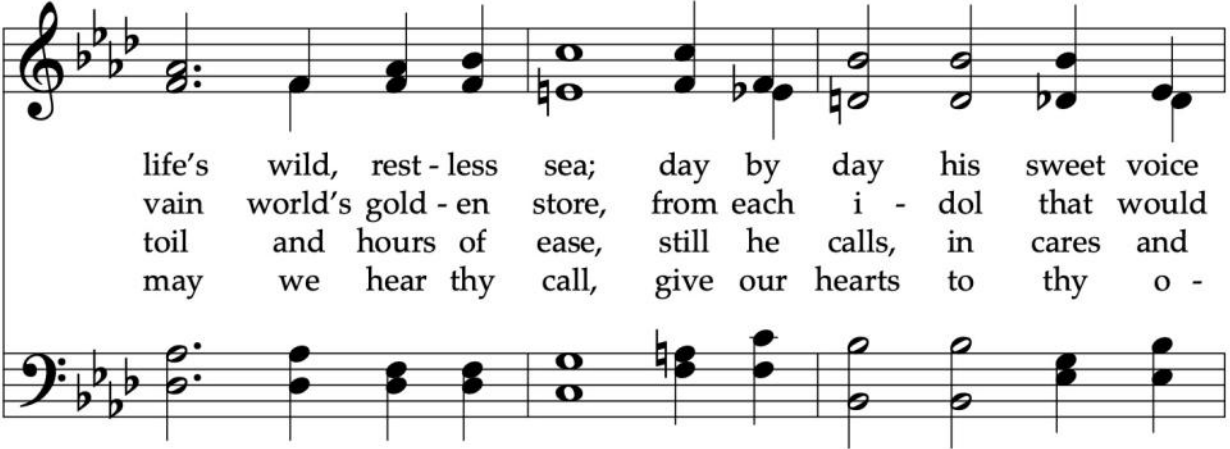
DEO GRACIAS LM
 (alternate tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN with "Alleluias," 15)
 (alternate harmonization, 189)

Jesus Calls Us

720



1 Je - sus calls us: o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 3 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 4 Je - sus calls us: by thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his sweet voice
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thy o -



sound - eth say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

Like many hymns that adults have come to cherish, this text based on Jesus' calling of the disciple Andrew was written for a 19th-century collection of hymns for children. The popular tune used here was composed for these words more than a quarter of a century later.

TEXT: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1852
 MUSIC: William H. Jude, 1887

GALILEE
 8.7.8.7

Welcome Visitors!

**We live into Jesus' inclusive call to love all people,
care for creation, and work for God's Justice.**

Nursery Care is available for young children beginning in the library and moving to C-23 on the second floor. Parents are welcome to come up with their children if they would like.

Sunday School - Children not in nursery care will be invited forward during the "Time with Our Youth" and then will follow their teacher to the Sunday School room.

You may place your offering in the offering plates as they are passed. If you would like to donate online, you can use the QR code to the right to make your contribution to the church.



This is a Hearing Loop equipped sanctuary – please switch your hearing aid to the "T" (telephone) position.

† **We seek** to use diverse images and liberating language about divine presence in our services of worship. Please feel free to adapt the words in hymns and prayers as needed so that they express your faith.

* **An asterisk indicates** "please rise in body or spirit."

We hope you will join us after worship for conversations and refreshments! Cookies and drinks are available in the front of the sanctuary.

Joys and Concerns – If you have a joy or concern that you would like to lift in prayer today, please complete a Prayer Request card (available by the worship bulletins) naming the person (s), situation or event, and any other information that you would like to be shared. The requests will be collected during the hymn following the sermon and provided to the Deacons.

If you would like to honor someone or a special event with flowers you can purchase a bouquet (\$35) for a future worship service by contacting Deacon Helen Ganotis at <helenganotis@gmail.com>.

Save the Date! **Congregational Gathering**

Join Us in the Hallock Lounge
for a Session Presentation on
DUPC's Possible Next Steps

➡ **June 7th** ⬅
After Worship

Guaranteed to be Engaging!
Includes a Light Lunch
Come Share Your Thoughts and Questions



The Downtown Church Staff

Cheryl Bittle, Weekend Receptionist
Jason Cloen, Associate Musician
Eileen Dietsch, Director of Operations
Rev. Kristina Hansen, Senior Pastor
Alan Jones, Associate Musician
David Mear, Business Manager
Baker Mohammed, Bookkeeper
Moses Nhial, Maintenance
Axel Ortiz, Maintenance

Penelope Paredes, Sunday School
Teacher
Robin Sheikh, Office Administrator
Ebony Smalls, Evening Receptionist
Michael Stagles, Maintenance Lead
Joseph Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor
Me'sha Thomas, Nursery Coordinator
Ed Verna, Maintenance
Lee S. Wright, D.M.A.,
Director of Music Ministry

Parish Leaders

Mary Rees and Pat Tweet - Clerks of Session
Jacque Hancock and Carol Samuel - co-Moderators of Deacons

Session

The Rev. Kristina
Hansen, Moderator
Nancy Brown

Jason Cloen
John DeHority
Sally Allison

Jim Vesper
Pat Tweet
Mary Rees

Deacons

Andrea Folan
Helen Ganotis
Jacque Hancock
Elizabeth Katz

Stephen Lloyd
Grania Marcus
Sandy Morales
Gie Oey

Becky Parks
Carol Samuel
Kelley Sheils
Marilyn Terpening

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