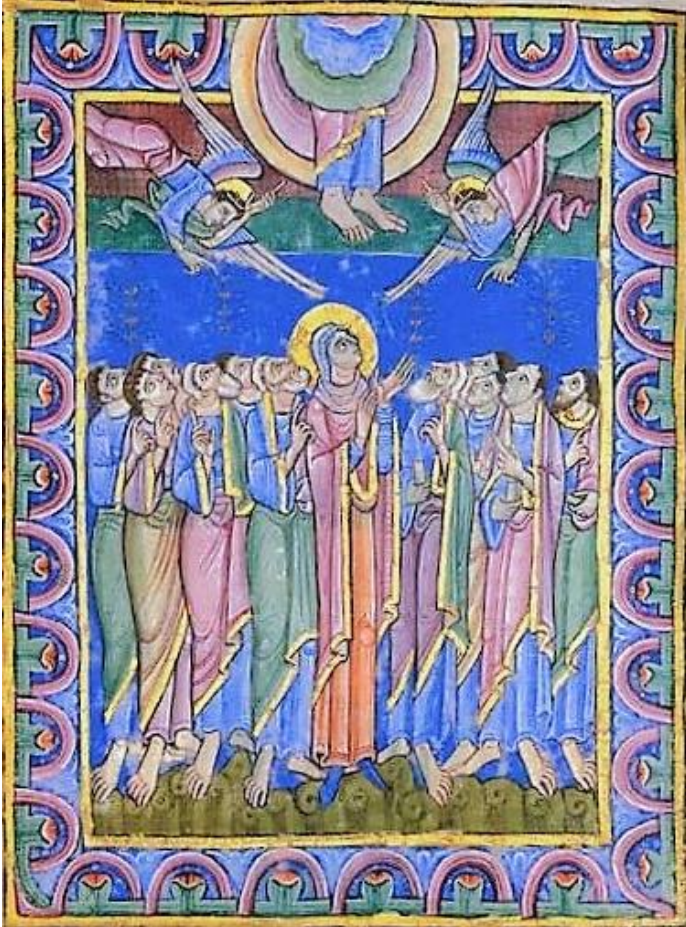


# Pilgrim United Church of Christ



May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## The Ascension of Christ

The Rev. Nathaniel Craddock, Interim Pastor

David Ralphs, Choir Director & Organist

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empowered anew to be witnesses of God's resurrection power in Jesus Christ. **Thanks be to God!**

*Please share a sign of God's welcome with those around you.*

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MOVEMENT II: WE ENCOUNTER OUR SACRED STORY

\* Affirmation of Faith, no. 359, & the Collect

The Apostles' Creed

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

We thank you, almighty God, for the life of Jesus among us, and that he reigns in power for us. Strengthen our hope and bless the work of our hands, that we may live as his body in this world: through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Acts 1.1-11 (NRSV)

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Reader: Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Response: Psalm 103.1-13, responsively by half verse

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

**and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

**and forget not all his benefits.**

He forgives all your sins

**and heals all your infirmities;**

He redeems your life from the grave

**and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;**

He satisfies you with good things,

**and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.**

The Lord executes righteousness

**and judgment for all who are oppressed.**

He made his ways known to Moses

**and his works to the children of Israel.**

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,

**slow to anger and of great kindness.**

He will not always accuse us,

**nor will he keep his anger for ever.**

He has not dealt with us according to our sins,

**nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,

**so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**

As far as the east is from the west,

**so far has he removed our sins from us.**

As a father cares for his children,

**so does the Lord care for those who fear him.**

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

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 1.15-23 (NRSV)

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches

of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Reader: Listen again to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### Children's Sermon

Anthem

*Peace Like a River*

arr. D. E. Wagner

The Gospel Reading: Mark 2.13-22 (NRSV)

Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus said to them, "The wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day.

"No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins." *The Gospel of the Lord.*

Affirmation of the Word

Sermon

The Rev. Nate Craddock

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MOVEMENT III: WE RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

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\* Hymn of Response, no. 518

*This Is a Day of New Beginnings*

Offertory

*Songs My Mother Taught Me*

A. Dvorak

\* Great Doxology, no. 50, & Offertory Prayer

**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  
up lifts; praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit; alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer, & 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.**

Response to Prayer, no. 495

*Weave*

\* Song of Mission, no. 658

*Restless Weaver*

\* Benediction & Alleluia, no. 106

Postlude

*Australian Hymn (#709)*

Mark Sedio

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## LIFE AT PILGRIM

### May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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#### Leading Our Worship Today

The Rev. Nathaniel Craddock, Interim Pastor

David Ralphs, Organist & Choir Director

Daryl Sroczyński, Susan Sroczyński, Liturgists

**Ushers:** Vickie Clark, Amber Tenhundfeld, Denise Majjikes,  
Betty Pfaff, Peyton Tenhundfeld

**Greeters:** Debbie Heintz, Irene Freese

**Pilgrim United Church of Christ is proud to be an Open and Affirming Congregation. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!**

#### PENTECOST 2018

Next week is a **tremendous** day in the life of our Church: we are celebrating the feast of Pentecost! Marking the 50<sup>th</sup> day after Jesus' final defeat of death, we remember how God the Holy Spirit fell on Jesus' friends after his ascension and empowered them to share the good news to the entire world. We'll remember this phenomenal event by **confirming** five fantastic young people—the first Confirmation class since 2010!—and celebrating Jesus' continued presence with us as we share Holy Communion. **We are expecting a lot of guests—this is not a Sunday to miss!**

**Welcome** to all who are here for the first time, and all who are here for the first time in a while! We are truly grateful you chose to be here today. We want to offer you our best welcome! To help us do that, please fill out a **welcome card** with as much information as you'd like to share, and we will reach out to you. **If you're a visitor today, Pastor Nate wants to take you to coffee or lunch sometime. Send him an email: [nathaniel.craddock@gmail.com](mailto:nathaniel.craddock@gmail.com)**

**Bible Boulevard** for the children is offered on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month for our kids to have a space of their own to worship God through playing and learning. **Today, kids are invited to go to Bible Boulevard after the Greeting.**

**Your Safety is Important to Us:** To help ensure the safety of our congregation, it was decided at our March Council meeting to eliminate some access into the building while church service is in session. Starting **Today** we will be posting a sign on the door entering into the Fellowship Hall from the upper parking lot and the door into the building off Weirman that will tell people on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. the door will be locked and to enter through the church front door or the door at the bottom of the stairs off the upper parking lot.

**All Family Banquet: This Tuesday, May 15, 6:30 – 9:00pm.** Your entire family is invited! Terry Parsons and his crew will fix a pork dinner that you won't want to miss. Instead of a program again this year, we will make fleece blankets to donate to Esther Marie Hutton Center for Women on Reading Road. If you can tie a knot, you can make this blanket. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. **Adults, \$10.00, Children \$5.00**

**Summer Church School:** We need six volunteers to teach Summer Church School. A movie, craft and story will be provided. Contact Vickie Clark, 574-8542 if interested.

**DVD, CD, and VHS Sharing:** Please bring in your unwanted DVDs, CDs and VHS tapes. They will be placed in the parlor for others to borrow, enjoy and bring back when finished.

**Roof Repairs: We are moving forward with roof repairs!** We are investing in our building to ensure our presence in the community for years to come. We are exploring fundraising events, in addition to extra tithes from our congregation. There are special envelopes in the Narthex marked Roof Repair. You can also add to your weekly offering, mark on the envelope the extra amount for roof repair.



**Our Boy Scout Troop 288** is having a fundraiser so they can attend Summer Camp. They are selling cards with discounts on food and general merchandise. The cost is \$10.00. Please help support our scouts. They will be selling the cards after church service today.

**Confirmation Sunday: Next Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup>.** Please plan to attend the celebration reception following service in the Fellowship Hall and welcome our newest members.

**Strengthen the Church Offering:** Please join us in planting the seeds needed to grow and sustain our denomination by making a gift to the Strengthen the Church Offering. Funds support the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Envelopes will be in the May 20<sup>th</sup> bulletin.

**Alter Flowers:** The two beautiful bouquets are in memory of Dorothy Klayer, and in honor of all mothers for Mother's Day, from Dorothy's daughter, Donna Carpenter.

**Washington UCC Hunger Walk:** Washington UCC welcomes their community to free meals every week. A donation to the Hunger Walk helps purchase food. There is an insert in the bulletin for donations. For your convenience you can place your donation in the offering plate. You may also sign up to be part of the Hunger Walk. Additional information is on the insert.



Connect with us on Facebook: [facebook.com/PilgrimChurchONA](https://facebook.com/PilgrimChurchONA)

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Scripture passages quoted from the Common English Bible & the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Liturgy adapted from the UCC *Book of Worship*, the *Book of Common Prayer* 1979, *Feasting on the Word*, and *The Scottish Liturgy* 1982.

## **VBS Shipwrecked:**

**Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, June 14, 6:30 – 9:00pm.**

Come join us for five fun filled nights of singing, playing and learning about God's love at VBS. Children five years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Register early as we fill up fast. Registration forms are in the Narthex and Church Office or you can register on Pilgrim's website or Facebook page. **Must Pre-Register!**



## **VBS Needs:**

**Cash Donations** (VBS envelopes in the Narthex and Church Office)

### **For decorations and games, we need:**

- plastic tablecloths (blue, green, tan)
  - many rolls of Kraft paper
  - cardboard carpet rolls
  - tropical décor
  - fishing poles & nets
  - 20 empty 2 ltr bottles w/lids
  - masking & painters tape
  - pool noodles
  - life preserver rings
  - chain & rope
  - 4 inflatable swim rings
  - tan colored bed sheets
- (Please put your name on your item so we can return it.)*

### **For snacks we need:**

- 64 vanilla pudding cups
- 64 blue raspberry Iced cups
- napkins
- 2 boxes of fruit by the foot
- 1 box Kroger brand fruit loops cereal (28oz)
- 1 box Kroger brand oats w/marshmallows cereal (28 oz)
- 1 large box of **multi color** Gold Fish crackers (or many small bags)
- 2 containers (makes 8 quarts) blue raspberry lemonade Kool-Aid

**Please bring items to church office by May 13. THANK YOU**

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Matthew, 574-5722 or Vickie Clark, 574-8542.

**We are Grateful for your Presence, Gifts, and Witness!**

Last Week:

Attendance.....	41
Average General Fund Income Needed per Week.....	\$3,709
Average Rec'd per Week to Date.....	\$3,592
Offering.....	\$2,111
Other Income.....	\$800

**This Week at Pilgrim:**

Sunday, May 13	<b>10:30am</b>	Sunday Worship
Monday, May 14	7:00pm	Governors
Tuesday, May 15	6:30pm	All Family Banquet
Wednesday, May 16	7:00pm	Overeaters Anonymous
	7:00pm	Choir
Thursday, May 17	7:00pm	Boy Scout Troop 228
Friday, May 18	10:00am	Overeaters Anonymous
Sunday, May 20	10:30am	Worship
	11:45am	Confirmation Celebration

**Prayer List**

Steve Andres	Debbie Hafer	Neil Parsons
Gerry Baker	Joe Hagedon	Kurt Phillippo
Kayla Beitelspecher	Hartung Family	Missy Rappoport
Wally Boekley	Candy Hoekstra	Alma Jean Robertson
Bob Brewsaugh	Mary Kaye Hoetker	Tom Schneider Family
Linda Brown	Cathy Hunt	Ken Scheidt Family
Liam Cummings	Stephanie Kleiner	George Siddall
Flaig Family	Joellyn Lam	Clara Spreen
Gegner Family	Tom Martin	Reeta Tomazic
Alberta Grimm	Bill Martz	Tom Wood
Cheryl Gunn	Pam Moorhead	

**We would like to keep this prayer list up to date!** Please help us by filling out one of the new Prayer Cards in the pews or by contacting the church office if you would like to add someone, or when you know a name may be removed. Thank you!

**New Pastoral Care Phone Number:** In order to better serve the congregation and the community, a new Pastoral Care contact number has been established. If you are in need of Pastoral assistance and the office is not open, you may call **513-549-1641**. When you call, it will ask for your name and then route your call to either Pastor Nate or a designated in-house care person should Pastor Nate be unavailable. Feel free to distribute this number to anyone and keep it handy should you need assistance.

### **FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY**

The Ascension of Christ to be seated at the right hand of God is a grand liturgical celebration in the life of the church. It marks forty days of celebrating Easter and God's triumph over the powers of oppression, depression, and our fear of death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is one of many images we have for Christ: good shepherd, suffering servant, great physician. How does the image of the ascended Christ affect your understanding of who he is? What are the strengths and weaknesses in this image of Christ for you?

#### **Household Prayer: Morning**

Holy One, come into my heart this morning and give me eyes to see throughout this day all the ways that you rule. Put your resurrecting power to work in my life and empower me to be a witness to Christ, that my life may be a song of thanksgiving to you. Amen.

#### **Household Prayer: Evening**

God, embrace me now at the end of this day. As in every day, there have been ups and downs, joys and disappointments. I thank you for my faith that, above it all, you rule. I put my trust in you as I give this day, now spent, to you. Do with it what you will, and send your Holy Spirit to pull forward threads from today that you will spin into good things tomorrow. I pray through Jesus Christ, who reigns with you, now and forever. Amen.

— *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*