Bethany Memorial Church
(Disciples of Christ)
May 16, 2021
Ascension of the Lord Sunday

Welcome! As we reopen the sanctuary for worship, please ensure the safety of your church family by social distancing, wearing a face mask, and refraining from singing.

Prelude Brenda Hart
Welcome and Announcements Jan Forsty

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord"

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you
I want to see you

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you
I want to see you

To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory

Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
I want to see you
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
Open the eyes of my heart

INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Jan Forsty

Our Father/Mother 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. AMEN.

PASSING OF THE PEACE
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: And, also with you.

THE WORD IN OUR MIDST

JOYS AND CONCERNS Rev. Sharon Watkins
PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING Jan Forsty

Luke 24:44-53

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon

you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Acts 1:1-11

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."

SPECIAL MUSIC Brenda Hart
SERMON Rev. Watkins

"Almost Ready"

WE PARTAKE AT GOD'S HOLY TABLE

MOMENT FOR MISSION Jan Forsty
CALL TO OFFERING Jan Forsty

DOXOLOGY AND OFFERING PRAYER

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

COMMUNION INVITATION Connie McVicar
THE THANKSGIVING PRAYER OF THE ELDER Connie McVicar

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

FELLOWSHIP OF COMMUNION

Please partake of the bread and cup – one in the Spirit.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

CLOSING HYMN #434 vv.1,3

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love,
And do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on my, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with thy fire divine.

BENEDICTION Rev. Watkins
POSTLUDE Vicki NeCastro

WELCOME!
We are glad you're here, and hope you find
God's presence in this place as we worship together.

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins
Liturgist	Jan Forsty
Elder	Connie McVicar
Music	Vicki NeCastro
	Brenda Hart
Greeter	Penny Tittle
Videographer	Connie McVicar

PRAYER LIST

All those affected by Covid-19 both in our community and beyond:

The family of Sheri Holland (friend of Vicki NeCastro)
The family of Nancy Hrinya (friend of Vicki NeCastro)
Jim McMillans sister-in-lay (REPLACE)
Mike Cunningham (Sydma's Dad)
Cindy Hudson
Harry Chambers
Madeline Wilson
Mary Lou Chambers
Laura Chambers Willis
RuthAnn Yost
Karol Puskarich
The Wasser family (friends of Vicki NeCastro)
Jean McVicar (Mother-in-Law of Connie McVicar)
Mary Ann Eisenhauer
Ed Rodgers (Vicki NeCastro's father)
Gary and Vonnie Larson
Ashley Pietrangelo, niece of Penny Tittle
Mark and Donna Sutherland, brother and sister-in-law of Pat Sutherland
Lynn Cowell, brother of Shirley Kemp
Nancy Pietrangelo (sister of Penny Tittle)
Jackie Andrews
Jeanne Cobb
David Gnatek (brother-in-law of Holly Hillgardner)
Tammy Ritchea
Ruth Tye, Jeannie Sarg Tye, and Jay Tye
Jack Hoffman
Perry Jones, Jr.
Jeffrey Yost
Caden Knisley
Ellen Sanford
Mary Jane Jackson
Holly, Frank, and Sharley Hillgardner
Donna Norman (Becky Ayers' sister)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Study will take place on **Monday, May 17**, at 7:15 pm via Zoom. The scripture to be studied is:

John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15 **Romans 8:22-27** **Acts 2:1-21**

Connie McVicar will lead the discussion. If you would like to attend and need the Zoom link, please contact the church office.

We need a few people to help **clean the Old Meeting House** before the Pentecost worship service. A good time appears to be **Friday, May 21 at 2:00 pm**. If you are able to help, show up with dust rag or anything else you might need in hand! We shall sing as we clean!

There will be a memorial service for **Joanne Sykes** on **Saturday, May 22 at 11:00 am**. All are invited. The service will also be available on Facebook Live.

Bethany Memorial Church will worship with the Beech Bottom Community Christian Church on **Pentecost Sunday (May 23)** at the Old Meeting House. The service will begin at 11:00 am. After the service, there will be a covered dish picnic at the upper shelter in Bethany Park. If you are able, we ask that you bring a covered dish as well as your own tableware (plate, fork, etc). Chicken will be provided. Wear red, orange, or yellow!

Mid-Week Prayer Meeting will take place on Thursdays of each week at 6:30pm via Zoom. If you would like to attend, call the church office so we can make sure you receive a Zoom invitation.

Food Pantry – Please continue to remember the front porch food pantry at the church. Pick up a few extra cans of food items whether it be canned vegetables or fruit, tuna fish, or spam. People are always in need and the shelves empty quickly.