

Memorial United Methodist Church At-Home Worship
Ascension Sunday, May 24, 2020

I'm so glad you're taking this opportunity to participate in worship with us. While we are not gathering in the sanctuary, I trust and believe, we are gathered together with God in spirit and in truth.

—*Pastor Cathy Rafferty*

We Gather to Worship God

Welcome and Prayer

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed!

Risen Christ, in these days of uncertainty and change, we walk as your disciples. In our worship of you, may we recognize you present among us. May we glimpse your true glory and hear your steady call to proclaim your love with our words and our actions until your kingdom comes. Amen.

Music to Center Ourselves: *Diadem*

Kathy Young

We Share the Story of God

Sharing from the Book of Revelation 22:1-7 (RSV)

Kathy Young

Then he showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. There shall no more be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and his servants shall worship him; they shall see his face, and his name shall be on their foreheads. And night shall be no more; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they shall reign for ever and ever.

And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place. And behold, I am coming soon."

Sharing the Story in Song: *Oh Happy Day!*

Willy Mannisto

Sharing from the Book of Acts 1:1-11 (NRSV)

Sally Brainard

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.” *This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.*

Message for Today: “Right Now”

Pastor Cathy Rafferty

We Respond to God

Responding in Song: *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* (UMH 717)

Mine eyes have seen the glory
Of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage
Where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning
Of his terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.

Refrain: Glory, glory hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

I have seen him the watchfires
Of a hundred circling camps,
They have builded him an altar
In the evening dews and damps;
I can read his righteous sentence

By the dim and flaring lamps;
His day is marching on. *Refrain.*

He has sounded forth the trumpet
That shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men
Before his judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer him;
Be jubilant my feet!
Our God is marching on. *Refrain.*

He is coming like the glory
Of the morning on the wave,
He is wisdom to the mighty,
He is honor to the brave;
So the world shall be his footstool,
And the soul of wrong his slave.
Our God is marching on. *Refrain.*

Offering Our Gifts and Commitments

Please give online at www.gladstonechurch.org

Or mail checks payable to: Memorial UMC, 1920 Lake Shore Dr., Gladstone, MI 49837

Offering Our Prayers, Blessing Our Graduates, and 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, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Please email prayer requests to mumc@gladstonechurch.org or call (906) 428-9311

We Go, Blessed to Serve

Blessing:

Having worshipped in the presence of the Risen Christ, with a glimpse of the glory to come, may you now turn your eyes to the work ahead: witnessing to the grace of God, the love of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit, in all you say and do. Amen.

To prayerful ponder or discuss:

- Imagine, write about or draw, or talk with someone about your view of heaven.
- Imagine, write about or draw, or talk with someone about your journey right now, and the work to which Jesus may be calling you today. What one step can you take this week?