

Worship from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Richmond, Virginia  
May 24, 2020  
The Seventh Sunday of Easter: Ascension Sunday

WELCOME

*Allison Seay*

HYMN 390

Praise to the Lord, *Lobe den Herren*  
*St. Stephen's Virtual Choir; Brent te Velde, Organ*

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Book of Common Prayer, page 355  
*Kate Mitchell*

THE COLLECT FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Connie Lankford*

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.**

THE FIRST LESSON: Acts 1:6-14

*Stephen Royalty*

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "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."

THE GOSPEL: John 17:1-11

*The Rev. Dorothy White*

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you

on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

”I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

## THE HOMILY

*The Rev. Gary D. Jones*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Cade Bridges, Sam Simpson, Charlotte Thornton, Wyatt Hobbs*

Lord, I will trust you.  
Help me to journey beyond the familiar  
and into the unknown.

Give me the faith to leave old ways  
and break fresh ground with you.

Christ of the mysteries, I can trust you  
to be stronger than each storm around me  
and within me.

I determine amidst all uncertainty  
always to trust.

I choose to live beyond regret,  
And let you recreate my life.

I believe you will make a way for me  
and provide for me, if only I trust you.

I will trust in the darkness and know  
that my times are still in your hand.  
I will trust in you for my future,  
chapter by chapter, until all the story is written.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Laurie Rogers*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FORM I

The Book of Common Prayer, page 383

*Mabel Baldwin*

*The Kidd Family*

*Betsy Lee*

## THANKSGIVING FOR HEROIC SERVICE

The Book of Common Prayer, page 839

*The Rev. William S. Stanley*

## THE PEACE

*Adell Hudson*

## CLOSING MUSIC

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

John Rutter

*St. Stephen's Virtual Choir; Brent te Velde, Organ*

## CLOSING

The Ascension as depicted in the reredos at St. Stephen's Church

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Affirmation of Faith adapted from The Northumbria Community, *Celtic Daily Prayer: Prayers and Readings from the Northumbria Community*, Harper Collins, 2002

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*The Lord Bless You and Keep You* by John Rutter used with permission of the C.F. Peters Corporation.

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