

Worship for May 16, 2021

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee

Shout for joy, sing songs of praise,
for God reigns over all the earth!
God has gone up with a shout!
Sound the trumpets and sing songs of praise!
(Feasting on the Word Worship Companion Year A, Vol 1)

PRELUDE – Prelude in G Major, Frédéric Chopin

Michael Parker, piano

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Nate Sell

O God of earth and heaven, we lift our praise to you this day! We confess that we have fallen short in what you have asked of us. We have not been witnesses to the ends of the earth telling them of all you have done in this world and in our lives. We have been silent when we should have been proclaiming the good news of your Kingdom. We have not embodied your grace or lived out your love as we ought. Forgive us, we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, in whose name we now lift up our silent prayers to you. (silent prayers of confession)

HYMN – Spirit of the Living God, Hymn 288

Starmount Ensemble

Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me;
fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.

(Sung twice)

SCRIPTURE READING – Acts 1:1-11

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

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."

The Ascension of Jesus

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."

SERMON – *In Your Hands*

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ANTHEM – *Poor Wayfaring Stranger*, Keith Christopher Starmount Ensemble; Stephen Hale, soloist

I am a poor wayfaring stranger
While traveling through this world of woe.
There is no sickness, toil, nor danger
In this bright world to which I go.

I'm going there to see my Father
I'm going there no more to roam.
I'm only going over Jordan
I'm only going over home

I know dark clouds will gather 'round me
I know my way is rough and steep.
But golden fields lie out before me
Where God's redeemed shall never sleep.

I'm going there to see my Mother
She said she'd meet me when I come.
I'm only going over Jordan
I'm only going over home

I'll soon be free from every trial
My body sleep in the churchyard.
I'll drop the cross of self-denial
And enter all my great reward.

I'm going there to see my savior
To sing His praise forevermore.
I'm only going over Jordan
I'm only going over home.

Repeat final verse.

RESPONSE TO GRACE
Apostle's Creed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION