

Christ in Heaven

Christ's ascension into heaven probably receives less attention than most of his redemptive acts. We do indeed confess, in the words of the Apostles' Creed, "He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty." We know very well the record of his last words to the disciples and the account of his disappearing from their sight, taken up in a cloud into heaven. Yet we reflect but little upon its significance.

Although Christ's death and resurrection are the focal point of true faith in him, nevertheless each one of his acts is of similar tremendous importance for our salvation. The crucial significance of Christ's entrance into the world by the virgin birth has often been dramatized by the vigorous defense of that doctrine against the attack of modern unbelief. The ascension, however, has not always been thus singled out for attack and consequently we may overlook much of its great importance.

Just as the manner of Christ's entrance into the world is of fundamental significance for the work he came to do, so his departure is to be viewed as another step in the completion of his work of saving his people from their sins. The apostle Paul tells us the exact significance of Christ's ascension when he says, "Wherefore God also has highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow ... and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Christ came to establish the Kingdom of God and to be its King. By the ascension God openly installed him in the full exercise of his kingly office, for he "set him at his own right hand ... and put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church."

Christ ascended into heaven to exercise the sovereignty which belongs to him in his kingdom. As King in heaven and in earth, Christ now sends forth his word and Spirit calling men to repentance and faith, bringing toward its fulfillment God's purpose that "every knee should bow ... and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord."

*I go to prepare a place
for you. And if I go and
prepare a place for you,
I will come again, and
receive you to myself;
that where I am, there
you may be also.*

John 14:26,3

Covenant Presbyterian Church
1623 University Avenue, Berkeley, California 94703
www.berkeleyopc.org

MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 125

“Let All Things Now Living”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise Insert

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Almighty, eternal God and Father, we confess and acknowledge unto thee that we were conceived in unrighteousness and are full of sin and transgression in all our life. We do not fully believe thy Word nor follow thy holy commandments. Remember thy goodness, we beseech thee, and for thy Name's sake be gracious unto us, and forgive us our iniquity which, alas, is great.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 103:8 The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Psalm 103:10 He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

Psalm 103:11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

Psalm 103:12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 230 *“Thou Who Was Rich Beyond All Splendor”*

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor!

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 303

“Blessed Jesus at Your Word”

Sermon Text

Luke 21:1-9

Sermon

THE WIDOW AND THE TEMPLE

*Hymn of Response # 498

“Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 10:00am. Sunday School.

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church following the morning worship service. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.

Saturday, Sept. 7, 12:00pm – 4:00pm. Our annual Fall church picnic takes place at Picnic Area #4 (near the concrete slide) at Codornices Park in Berkeley (1201 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708). The online potluck sign-up is

<http://www.luckypotluck.com/potluck/ChurchPicnic2024>.