

SUNDAY WORSHIP
10:30am • Sunday • May 17, 2026

Mission Statement: As a community of faith, we welcome all who seek understanding. • As a community of hope, we offer friendship and comfort to those in need. • As a community of love, we provide caring support and shared fellowship to all.

WE ARE A COMMUNITY CHURCH. OUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND MEMBERS COME FROM MANY PLACES AND MULTIPLE FAITH TRADITIONS. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO FIND A SPIRITUAL SANCTUARY HERE.

PRELUDE *Sharon Novak*

— PASSING the PEACE & ANNOUNCEMENTS —

— WELCOME —

CENTERING MUSIC *Sharon Novak*

CALL to WORSHIP *by Nancy Townley*

One: Today we celebrate Ascension Sunday and
Christ's return to God.

People: We look in wonder as he is lifted from us into heaven!

One: But this is not a time to gaze upward.
There is work to be done.

People: Jesus has entrusted the ministry of God's love to us.

One: Let's get to work!

*People: Let's make our hearts ready for the task ahead
with prayer and praise!*

All: **AMEN!**

— PRAYING —

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and glory forever. *Amen.*

***SONG #341** *Peace I Leave* *Sharon Novak*

— REFLECTING —

SCRIPTURE **MATTHEW 28,**
LUKE 24 & ACTS 1 (EXCERPTS)

MESSAGE *WHY DO WE
STAND LOOKING?* *Rev. Gail Doktor*

***SONG #404** *Love Divine
All Loves Excelling* *Sharon Novak*

— OFFERING —

DOXOLOGY #44

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

— CLOSING —

***BENEDICTION** *Sharon Novak*

May the love of God live in us today, may the love of God live in us today.

May the warmth we feel within us show in all we do and say.

May the love of God live in us today. May the peace of God be with us today,

May the peace of God be with us today.

May it guide us and protect us, as we go our separate ways.

May the peace of God be with us, May the love of God live in us,

May the love of God shine through us today.

PRAYERS For PEOPLE: *Focus this week:* Alex A., Alexis, Allison, Annie, Ariana, Bette D., Bill M., Bob C., Bob G., Brianna & baby Addie, Cindi G., Deb L., Doug, Dominique, Hannah, Huntley, Jenn, Jess, Joanne's parents, Kailee, Karen, Larry, Mary, baby Miles, Mike, Nancy, Nat & baby June, baby Noelle, Rob, Ruth, Sascha, Steve, Tom, and baby Quinn N. For those grieving. Our adversaries and enemies.
For PLACES: For Chikanga Church in Mutare, Zimbabwe and communities in Honduras. For hurting places in the world, wounded by natural disasters or human-made causes and conflicts.

MATTHEW 28:16-20 — Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

LUKE 24:50-53—The Ascension of Jesus

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 1:6-11 — 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.”*

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