



IRVINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 12, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Reflection

“For Ascension Day, the fortieth day after Easter, marks the day on which Jesus...ascended to heaven before the disciples’ eyes. Though often overlooked, the ascension of Christ is filled with theological significance. Christ’s ascension means that in heaven there is one who, knowing firsthand the experience of suffering and temptation, prays for us and perfects our prayers. The ascension is a witness and guarantee of our own bodily resurrection, as well as an invitation for us to set our hearts and minds ‘on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God’ (Colossians 3:1-2).”

~ The Worship Sourcebook

Sources and Credits:

Ascension, Mural of Christ ascending to heaven on a graffiti wall in Bristol, England, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

The Call to Worship is based on Psalm 1.

The Prayer of Confession and Prayer of Illumination were written by Rev. Teri McDowell Ott and published in *Presbyterian Outlook*.

Ascension of the Lord

Gathering in God's Love

*The prelude is a call for personal
preparation for the worship of God.*

PRELUDE

Prière du Christ from *L'Ascension* | Olivier Messiaen

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked.

We delight in God's Word,

we meditate on God day and night.

Our worship grounds us in God,

like trees planted by streams of water God helps us yield good fruit.

We do not wither when we spend time in God's presence.

***HYMN**

#149: The Head That Once Was Crowned | ST. MAGNUS

**Please stand in body or in spirit*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Savior God, we invite you into our lives for a season, only to forget and neglect you once again. You beckon us, calling for our attention, but we are distracted and busy taking care of other priorities. Remind us, Holy God, that you are the source of our flourishing. You are the living water by which we have been planted. Forgive our neglect. Forgive our unfaithfulness. Focus us on you, your Word, and all that your Spirit provides. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Kids 8 and under are welcome to join Rev. Crawford at the front of the sanctuary.

Listening for God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Open us, Holy One, to your Word and your Way.

Clear our minds of daily distractions.

Fill our hearts with the humility we need to hear and receive
the message you intend for us today. Amen.

SACRED SCRIPTURE

Psalm 93

Luke 24: 44-53

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Witnesses”

Responding in Faith

***HYMN OF THE WORD**

#156: You, Living Christ, Our Eyes Behold | PALACE GREEN

CONFESSION OF FAITH

From A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

OFFERING

To give online, scan the QR code to the right:



OFFERTORY

Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier, BWV 633 | J.S. Bach

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

O praise Him! Alleluia!

Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Oh praise Him! Alleluia!

Oh praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

Departing in Joy

MISSION MOMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***HYMN**

See the Conqueror mounts in triumph | IN BABILONE
(music on following page)



1 See the Con - queror mounts in tri - umph; see the King in
2 He who on the cross did suf - fer, he who from the
3 Thou hast raised our hu - man na - ture on the clouds to



roy - al state, rid - ing on the clouds, his
grave a - rose, he has van - quished sin and
God's right hand: there we sit in heaven - ly



char - iot, to his heaven - ly pal - ace gate!
Sa - tan; he by death has spoiled his foes.
pla - ces, there with thee in glo - ry stand.



Hark! the choirs of an - gel voic - es joy - ful
While he lifts his hands in bless - ing, he is
Je - sus reigns, a - dored by an - gels; Man with



al - le - lu - ias sing, and the por - tals
part - ed from his friends; while their ea - ger
God is on the throne; might - y Lord, in



high are lift - ed to re - ceive their heaven - ly King.
eyes be - hold him, he up - on the clouds a - scends.
thine as - cen - sion, we by faith be - hold our own.

***CHARGE**

Life is short.

**We have not much time to gladden the
hearts of those who journey with us.**

**Therefore, be swift to love,
make haste to be kind.**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Transports de joie from *L'Ascension* | Olivier Messiean

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Blaine Crawford

Music Director: Jon Riss

Nursery Care: Desde Visconti

Liturgist: Alice Picon

Acolyte: Davis Wood

Ushers: Francis & Erika O'Shea

Coffee Hour Hosts: Danielle & Josh Cooper

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

NURSERY: Nursery care is available today in Classroom #2 (downstairs in John Knox Hall). Please see an usher for assistance.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Gather in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.; stay through Children's Time before heading down to classes.

PENTECOST OFFERING

On May 19th, the church will receive a special Pentecost Offering. One of four annual special offerings, the Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By contributing to the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come - children, youth, and young adults. Scanning the following QR code will take you to our donation page for this offering:



For more information, please visit the following webpage:
<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/pentecost/>

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

May 19th

Next Sunday, our 8th-9th graders will be Confirmed. Some will read their Statements of Faith, and some will share their selected scripture passages. In addition, the PreK-3rd class will provide their visions of Pentecost, Davis Wood will read the Prayer of Confession written by the 4th-7th grade class, and our Sunday School teachers will be recognized.

Please join us for this joyous occasion!

SEEKING MUSICAL PERFORMERS:

Any Age, Level, Musical Genre!

Once again, we at IPC have the great pleasure to host a concert stop on the amazing RiverArts Annual Music Tour. This is an opportunity to have some fun performing any kind of piece you like, contribute to live music in the River Towns, and spread the word about this wonderful church and its wonderful musical life. This is a very relaxed, informal, low-pressure concert. The key word is *fun*.

The concert will take place on June 1st. Anyone who is interested in performing, please contact Nancy Rathbun by **May 16th** at NNRathbun@aol.com (to learn more about the Music Tour, visit the website: <https://2024musictour.riverarts.org>).

Heavenly Strains

The Musicians of the Irvington Presbyterian Church



Two free concerts - June 1, 2024

Part of the 2024 RiverArts Music Tour

Noon: Chamber, Vocal and Organ Music

1:00: Organ recital by Jon Riss

25 North Broadway, Irvington

RiverArts

<https://2024musictour.riverarts.org/>

COFFEE HOUR SIGN-UP

We are now using SignUpGenius as a way to keep track of our coffee hour hosts. If you would like to host an upcoming coffee hour, you may scan the QR code below to do so (should you have any trouble with signing up, please don't hesitate to reach out to Melissa Campbell for help or questions at campbeme@gmail.com):



UPCOMING AT IPC

June 9: Church Picnic after Worship (more info to come).

May 28-June 12: Rev. Crawford will be away, hiking the Camino de Santiago (a famed pilgrimage route in Spain) with a group of Presbyterian colleagues. While on pilgrimage, he will not be available by phone/email. Pastoral care coverage is arranged; Emily will have contact information in the church office. Dr. Reuben Garcia will preach on June 2nd, and Rev. Bill Weisenbach will preach on June 9th.

May 27: The church office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day.

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Blaine D. Crawford, Minister of Word & Sacrament
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Jonathan Riss, FAGO, ChM, Director of Music
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Liz Marinis, Good Shepherd Director
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To receive important IPC communications, please sign up for the church email list by scanning the following QR code:



or by visiting the homepage of our website:
www.irvingtonpresbychurch.org

OUR MISSION

Irvington Presbyterian Church is called by Jesus Christ to glorify God in worship through word and song, grow as disciples through study, engage in mission to the world, joyfully extend hospitality and fellowship to all and, with God's help, allow the Holy Spirit to work through us.

We seek to be a place of healing, where individuals can feel safe and find sanctuary from their own hurts, and can then turn that healing spirit outwards, to help others.

We believe God is calling each of us to ministry, and we seek to be a place where each member will feel helped and supported in discovering their gifts.



Irvington Presbyterian Church
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914-591-8124

www.irvingtonpresbychurch.org
Office Hours: 8:30-12:30, M-F