

May 17, 2026

Seventh Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE "Ave Maris Stella" Titelouze

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

The Lord is risen! Alleluia! *Luke 24:34*
Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!
Clap your hands, all you peoples! *Ps. 47:1, 5*
God has gone up with a shout of joy.
Why do you look up toward heaven? *Acts 1:11*
Christ has risen; Christ will come again.

INTROIT "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" arr. Lamb
Sanctuary Bell Choir

PRAYER OF THE DAY

+ HYMN: GTG #246 "Christ Is Alive!" TRURO

CALL TO CONFESSION *1 Pet. 5:6-7*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world, and failed to give him glory.

Forgive us, and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS *1 Pet. 5:10*
... In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God!

+ HYMN: GTG #468 "In My Life (Lord, Be Glorified)" LORD, BE GLORIFIED

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN Sarah Fay-Koutz

Children and youth are dismissed to Sunday School

INVITATION TO OFFERING *Ps. 23:5*

OFFERTORY *Improvisation* Jesse Puglia

+ RESPONSE: GTG #606 OLD HUNDREDTH
"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

+ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

+ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Adapted from the Belhar Confession (1982)*
We believe that the unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind; have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 1:6-14 N.T. page 90
Jesus' companions at prayer

PSALM Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;
let those who hate God flee.

**As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish
at the presence of God.**

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.

**Sing to God, sing praises to God's name;
exalt the one who rides the clouds;**

"I Am" is that name, rejoice before God!

In your holy habitation, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

**you give the solitary a home
and bring forth prisoners into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,
**the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain,
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

You sent a bountiful rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance when it languished.

**Your people found their home in it;
in your goodness, O God,
you have made provision for the poor.**

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the LORD.

**You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

**How wonderful you are in your holy places,
O God of Israel,**

giving strength and power to your people. Blessed by God!

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 N.T. page 185
God sustains those who suffer

GOSPEL LESSON John 17:1-11 N.T. page 85
Christ's prayer for his disciples

RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE *Luke 24:48*

We are witnesses to these things—
the good news of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "Amazing Grace!" arr. Wilberg

SERMON "The Ascension" Rev. Bill Pinches

+ HYMN: GTG #463 "How Firm a Foundation" FOUNDATION

+ CHARGE *1 Cor. 16:13; 2 Tim. 2:1; Eph. 6:10;
1 Thess. 5:13-22; 1 Pet. 2:17*

Go out into the world in peace;
have courage; hold onto what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak, and help the suffering;
honor all people; love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

+ BLESSING *Rev. 22:13*

The blessing of the eternal, triune God—
Alpha and Omega, first and last, beginning and end—
be with you all.
Alleluia!

+ CHORAL BENEDICTION "A Choral Amen" Forman

POSTLUDE *Improvisation on "Christ Is Alive"* arr. Puglia

**You are invited to join us
for fellowship and refreshments
after worship in the Memorial Room.**
It is not necessary to remain seated during the postlude.

SERVING US TODAY

Guest Organist: Caitlyn Brown

Guest Pianist: Jesse Puglia

Guest Pipers: Bill Collins and Tom Kennedy

Guest Drummer: Doug Campbell

Liturgist: Nancy Sue MacDonald

Greeters: Nancy Sue MacDonald and Tonya Seely

Next Week's Greeters: Rex Hauser and Mary Garland Jackson

Sound: Marty Subject

Livestream: Tami Chapman

Security: Mike Buchman and Tim Hammond

Today's flowers are given by Jerry Richards
in memory of Carole Richards
and by Camille Subject
in memory of loved ones

CHURCH HISTORY IN MINIATURE

78: 1 Timothy:

This letter, written to Paul's protégé Timothy to help Timothy shepherd the Christian church in Ephesus, may have been written towards the very end of Paul's life. (c. AD 65)

THE STUDY CATECHISM

Question 120. What is prayer?

Prayer means calling upon God whose Spirit is always present with us. In prayer we approach God with reverence, confidence and humility. Prayer involves both addressing God in praise, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication, and listening for God's word within our hearts. When we adore God, we are filled with wonder, love and praise before God's heavenly glory, not least when we find it hidden in the cross of Golgotha. When confessing our guilt to God, we ask for forgiveness with humble and sorry hearts, remembering that God is gracious as well as holy. When giving thanks to God, we acknowledge God's great goodness, rejoicing in God for all that is so wonderfully provided for us. Finally, when calling upon God to hear our requests, we affirm that God draws near in every need and sorrow of life, and ask God to do so again.

CREDITS

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Mason First Presbyterian Church

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Office hours: Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

MINISTERS

All Members

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Bill Pinches

Parish Associate: Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Charlie Herrick

Spiritual Growth Director: Lori Filka

Sanctuary Choir Director / Bell Choir Director: Deb Melse

Office Manager: Jessica Tessman

Financial Secretary: Becky Moots

Choral Music Accompanist: Yinzhe Li

Sexton: Eric VanDyke

Adult Spiritual Growth Coordinator: Michelle Mackey

Youth Ministry Coordinator: Sarah Fay-Koutz

Child Care: Jill Castle, Jasmine Leffew,

Violet Mackey, Sam Pinches, Keren Tayong

ELDERS

Class of 2026: Bruce Archer (*Clerk*), Ginnie Gibson,

Jane Hamelink, Tim Hammond

Class of 2027: Travis Archer, Dan Baker, Evelyn Tayong, Steve Sowles

Class of 2028: Mary Garland Jackson, Greg Lang, Suzanne Lang, Monte Shuck

DEACONS

Class of 2026: Ron Dlouhy (*Treasurer*), Bill Leutscher, Sandy Leutscher,

Nancy Sue MacDonald (*Secretary*), Laurie McGonigal

Class of 2027: Donna Archer, Rick Cote (*Co-Moderator*),

Sally Hughes, Debbie Johnson, Issie Nielsen

Class of 2028: Sandy Diehl (*Co-Moderator*), Pattie Yanz, Torrie Yanz

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today	Explorers Class	11:30 am
Wednesday	Lunch packing for Advent House	10:15 am
	Midweek Prayer Service	12:00 pm
	Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm
Thursday	Choir Rehearsal	7:10 pm
	Session	7:00 pm
Friday	Church Office closed / Pastor's Sabbath	

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

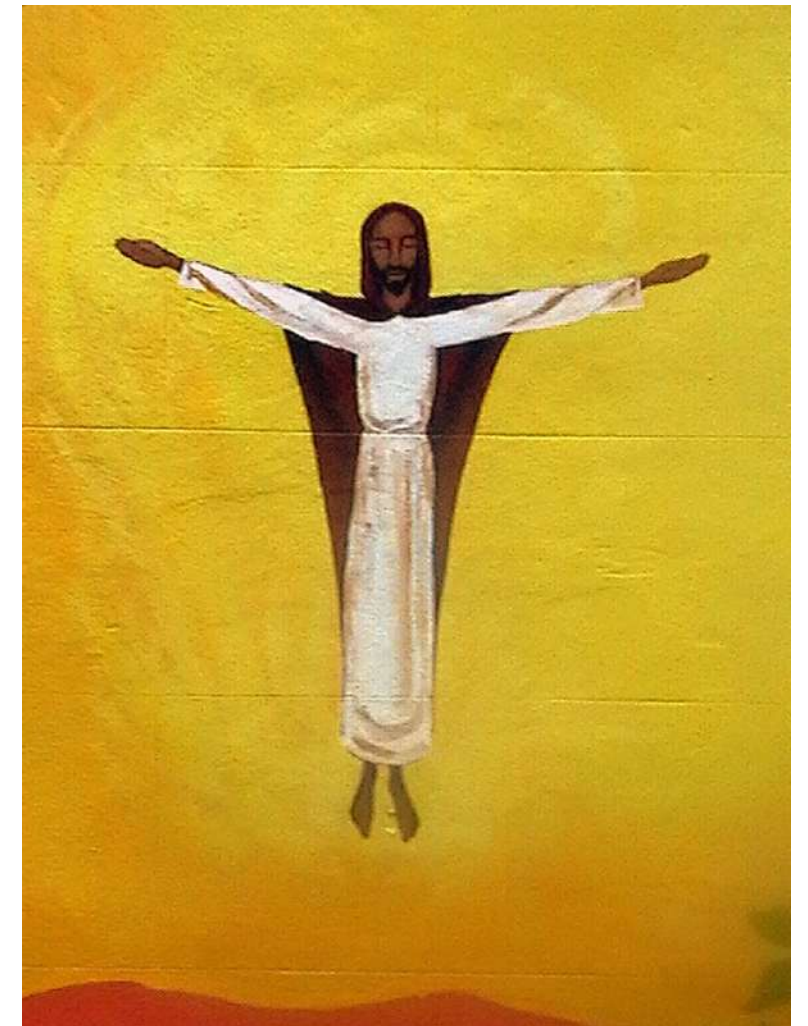
May 17: Lori Filka

May 21: Leah Harkness

May 21: Evelyn Tayong

**Mason
First Presbyterian Church**

May 17, 2026
Seventh Sunday of Easter



Ascension
Mural on a graffiti wall
Bristol, England, 2003

When he had said this, as they were watching,
he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.
(Acts 1:9)