

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. Michael Q. Atkinson, Lead Pastor

Rev. Harry Jenkins, Associate Pastor

"A Holy, Healthy, and Loving Community Striving to Know Christ and to Make Christ Known"



May 16, 2021
Seventh Sunday of Easter
ASCENSION SUNDAY

WORDS OF WELCOME ----- Pastor Michael Atkinson

ORGAN PRELUDE ----- "Festive Processional" / David Lasky-----Brett Miller
Dr. James Moore, trumpet

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Welcome! We are gathered here to celebrate the great promise!
People: Our hearts are ready to receive this good news.
Leader: Jesus asked all of his friends to live lives reflecting the love of God.
People: We are numbered among these friends!
Leader: Open your hearts today. Hear God's special word just for you!
People: Lord, help us to be ready to receive your word and to live in your love. AMEN.

HYMN ----- "Jesus Shall Reign"

Katie Shaver, acolyte; Don Gardner, song leader

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom spread from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Jesus endless prayer be made,
and endless praises crown his head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.

Let every creature rise and bring
honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen!

PASTORAL PRAYER ----- Pastor Atkinson

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us,
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING ----- "Ave Regina" from Three Antiphons-----Cecilia McDowall

Dr. James Moore, trumpet; Brett Miller, keyboard

SCRIPTURE LESSON -----Acts I:I-II

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 over the course of 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.'

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 towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards 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 -----"The In-Between Times" ----- Pastor Michael Atkinson

(you are encouraged to use this space for notes)

PRAYER OF INVITATION

HYMN ----- "Crown Him With Many Crowns"

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.
 Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
 Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
 And rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
 His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high,
 Who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
 Those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
 All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
 Thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE ----- "Sonata for Trumpet and Organ" Z.850 ----- Henry Purcell
Dr. James Moore, trumpet; Brett Miller, organ

PASTOR'S MEETING WITH CHILDREN/YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Today — Following Morning Worship

All First Church folks with children and youth family members are encouraged to come meet with Pastor Michael.



Bring your thoughts and dreams and visions to share!



"FRIENDS FEEDING FRIENDS" — WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2

"Friends Feeding Friends" is a community organization that meets outside our church every Wednesday night to serve a free dinner.

FUMC will serve this dinner (for about 50) on June 2, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m..
 We need people to serve the meal, to mingle/visit with the crowd, and to help clean-up.
 If you would like to volunteer, please call Cheryl Moorhead at 304-677-9859
 or Tammy Matheny at 304-476-2015