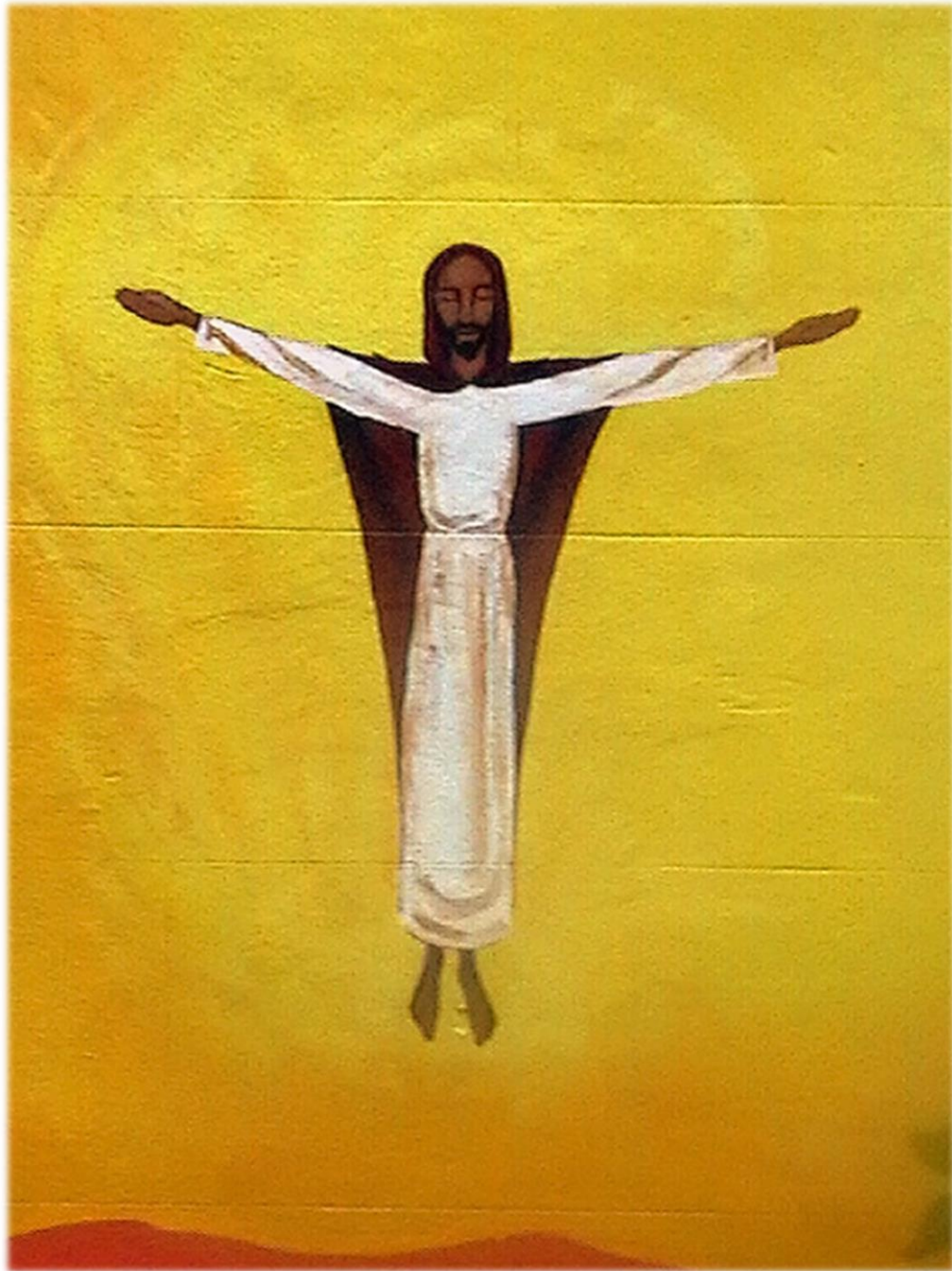


*First Presbyterian Church of Monroe*  
*Ascension of the Lord*  
*May 16, 2021*



## Welcome

Ann Lux, Liturgist

## Prelude

### Threshold Moment

As Jesus prepares to leave the disciples, he opens their minds and blesses them. The result after he ascends is their return to Jerusalem with great joy and a desire for continually worshiping and blessing God in the temple. What happens when the “eyes of OUR hearts are enlightened?” We know the hope that we have been called to. As we wait for the Spirit with hope, we celebrate with abandon because we have no other ruler than the One who reigns with love and justice.

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,  
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.  
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,  
Dare to dance again!**

Dancing changes us: it transforms us and brings us to life, awakens our senses. Imagine the dreams and the heartbeat and the life stirring in Jesus and his disciples as he readied them for this next chapter of ministry.

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,  
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.  
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,  
Dare to dance again!**

This is the call!

Look to the skies be it rain or shine.

**We lift up our heads to meet the day.**

Look around and see that you do not dance alone. Be the hands and feet of Jesus in our world.

**We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.**

Even when rain sets in, open those umbrellas of gratitude and set out anyway.

**For we are called to dance again!**

## Prayer

Ann Lux, Liturgist

Lord of the Dance, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –

We lace up our dancing shoes.

Ready to be your hands and feet in our world.

Open us to learn new steps of faithfulness.  
Open us to learn from the dances of others.  
Open us to lean into each new day...dancing!  
Give us courage and patience. Strengthen us in our faith.  
Gather us, encourage us and lead us in your dance of love.  
We pray in the name of the Risen Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## **Opening Song of Praise**

"Alleluia No.1"

### **Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

### **Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

God, though you call us to delight in your teachings,  
we can become cynical and full of doubt.  
Heal our cynicism and doubt  
and restore us to you.  
Forgive us.  
Guard and protect us from evil,  
and sanctify us in truth.  
Remind us again and again  
To dance in your love and to the beat of your heart.  
Lord of Life. Lord of Light. Lord of Resurrection. Amen.

### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

### **Passing of the Peace**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you.  
**And also, with you.**

## **A Story for All Ages** *(Time with Children)*

### **The Story**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

**Let's offer a repeat-after-me-prayer:**

"We offer thanks  
**we offer thanks**  
for dreamers true  
**for dreamers true**  
for all they are  
**for all they are**

and all they do.  
**and all they do.**  
Let us become  
**let us become**  
dreamers too  
**dreamers too**  
and bring new life  
**and bring new life**  
to me and you!  
**to me and you!**  
Amen!  
**Amen!**

### Reading of the Word

**First Reading:** Acts 1:1-11 (*NRSV*)  
**Second Reading:** Ephesians 1:15-23 (*NRSV*)

Ann Lux, Liturgist  
Ann Lux, Liturgist

### **Sounds of Resurrection** "Light Dawns on a Weary World"

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 24:44-53  
**Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler  
Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

**Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,  
teach me to move in the power of your Spirit,  
teach me to [move] in the light of your presence,  
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.**

**Affirmation of Faith**

*From "A Brief Statement of Faith"*

Ann Lux, Liturgist

In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
The love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
We trust in one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
Whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ,  
Fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
Preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,  
Teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,

Healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,  
Eating with outcasts,  
Forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified,  
Suffering the depths of human pain  
And giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised Jesus from the dead,  
Vindicating his sinless life,  
Breaking the power of sin and evil,  
Delivering us from death to eternal life.  
Amen.

### **Prayers of the People**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins,  
As we forgive those who sin 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.**

### **Offering Our Energy and Our Resources**

Ann Lux, Liturgist

When we love Jesus, we fall in rhythm to the beat of Jesus's heart. We become ever attentive to all of creation, for Christ is in all things. How do we know the rhythm and dance of our lives is faithful? When we direct our energy to the work of justice and love; so, let us boldly put our trust in God, who holds our lives. Let us be Christ's community building church that creates and supports ministries seeking new solutions for showing neighbor love.

**Teach me to pray in the power of Easter,  
following Christ in a life resurrected,  
teach me to act with compassion and justice,  
teach me to dance with the beat of your heart.**

## **Song for Stepping Out into the World**

"I Cannot Dance, O Dancing Love"

### **Charge**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

### **Blessing**

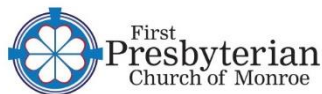
Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Our Loving God,  
Risen Christ,  
and Dancing, Swirling Spirit  
will fill you with all you need.  
May your life bring the beat of the Spirit  
to all needing the rhythm of God's love.  
The rhythm of Again and Again.  
Go forth and dare to dance!  
Be God's love letter to the world! Alleluia! Amen.

### **Postlude**

#### **FPC Monroe Worship Team**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler, Pastor  
Rob Edwards, Minister of Music  
Ann Lux, Liturgist  
Isaac Fankhauser, Sound Team  
Josh McMann, Sound Team  
Randy Stiffler, Sound Team



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