

South Freeport Church

Congregational † United Church of Christ



Ascension

Mural of Christ ascending to heaven on a graffiti wall
in Bristol, England, 2003

Sunday, May 21, 2023

Ascension Sunday

Everyone is welcome at South Freeport Church!

Hearing amplifiers are available for those who need them, please ask an usher.

Young kids are invited to explore the "Prayground" in the back of the sanctuary.

Children are always welcome to be their authentic selves here: noises, wiggles, and all!

Order of Worship

**Please rise as you are able*

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Jeremy W. Young

CHORAL INTROIT

“Majesty”

MEDITATION

Tim Whitacre

“Christ is now exalted above the heavens, but he still suffers on earth all the pain that we, the members of his body, have to bear. He showed this when he cried out from above: ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’ and when he said: ‘I was hungry and you gave me food.’ Why do we on earth not strive to find rest with him in heaven even now, through the faith, hope and love that unites us to him?”

-Augustine of Hippo (354 - 430)

*OPENING HYMN

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

#317

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

ANTHEM

“Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”

Children are invited to head upstairs to Children’s Church at this time if they wish.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION - *Inspired by UCC Worship Ways*

One: Forgiving God, have mercy on us according to Your steadfast love and in Your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions.

All: Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin.

One: Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new, right spirit within us.

All: Cast us not away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from us.

One: Restore to us the joy of Your salvation and uphold us with a willing spirit.

All: Lord, have mercy; Lord have mercy on us.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

One: Beloved, God blots out our transgressions and will remember our sins no more.

Remember those words that if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. Jesus said our sins are forgiven.

All: Our sins are forgiven indeed. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

RESPONSE SONG

“We Will Take What You Offer”

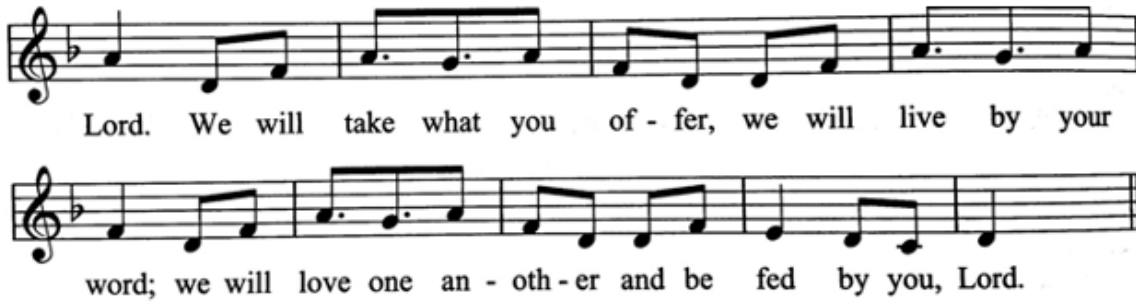
John Bell



We will take what you of - fer, we will live by your



word; we will love one an - oth - er and be led by you,



SCRIPTURE Acts 1: 6-14 (Pew Bibles page 991) Tim Whitacre

SERMON "The Ascension of the Lord" Pastor Jeremy W. Young

*HYMN "I am Thine, O Lord" #408

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER Pastor Jeremy Young

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE "Danish Amen"

OFFERING

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God for all that love has done. Creator, Christ, and Spirit one. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

*CLOSING HYMN "I Love to Tell the Story" #560

BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE "Go Now in Peace"

Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast strong, and true. Know God will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others, so all the world can see. God will be there, watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen.

POSTLUDE

The altar flowers are shared by Laurie Palm.
Everyone is invited to a time of fellowship in the Community Hall or outside after
worship, hosted by Jennie Gwilym and Jeremy Young.

Please keep the following in your prayers: Allan Wilson, The Eller Family, Nicholas Rodgers Sweet, Diane Bennekamper, Lorraine Martin, Kathryn Cheever, Jack Cashman, Gabriela O'Leary, Lou and Karen, Gail Seabury, Nathan, Mary Eliza Wengren, Ruthie M. and her daughter Abbie, the New Mainers, and all struggling with Covid and other illnesses.

CALLED TO CARE: Thank you, Nita Voskian, our Called to Care Contact for next week.

SFCC Upcoming MEETINGS and EVENTS:

Adult Choir Rehearsal: Thursdays, 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Called to Care: Wednesday, June 21, 5:30 pm at Winslow Park (Rain location: Ring Room.)

Christian Education: Wednesday, May 31, 6:30 pm via Zoom

Church Council: Tuesday, June 13, 6:30 via Zoom

Deacons: Monday, June 5, 6:30 pm, via Zoom

Events: Tuesday, May 30, 5:30pm via Zoom

Weekly Men's Breakfast: Wednesdays at 8:30 am, Freeport Café, (Best Western) Route 1

Plant-Based Potluck: Thursday, May 25, 5:30pm in the Community Hall with a presentation of FreeportCAN (Climate Action Now) by lead organizer Kathleen Sullivan

Author Luncheon with Matt Cost: Friday, June 9, 11:30am in the Community Hall

Children's Sunday and Family Fun Field Day: Sunday, June 11, 9:30am, Worship led by Children's Church, followed by Family Fun Field Day for the whole church family!

Pie Sales: Thursdays in the Community Hall, 3-6 pm

We need Vacation Bible School participants! VBS is June 26-30, 9 am to 12 noon. Ages 5 and up. More info on church website or ask Ms. Beth!

Visit southfreeportchurch.org/contact to get on our email list.

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South Freeport Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

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