

MAY 9, 2024 - ASCENSION



**First United
Presbyterian Church
Houston, PA 15342
724-746-3040
houstonpresbyterian.org**

“Never let hard lessons harden your heart; the hard lessons of life are meant to make you better, not bitter.”
— Roy T. Bennett

“Does it Matter?”

PASTOR BEN LIBERT

First United Presbyterian Church

102 North Main Street, Houston, PA 15342
724-746-3040

MAY 9, 2024

*"We will share the love of our Lord, building on our past,
reaching in faith toward our future."*

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Welcome & Announcements

Meditation Music: - **"Thine is the Glory/Crown Him with Many Crowns"** - . . **Arr. McChesney** - (Celebration Ringers)

Call to Worship

L: We give thanks to the great and mighty God that Christ has ascended!

P: We rejoice before the throne of his power and peace

L: For he has put down tyrannies that would destroy us,

P: He has unmasked idols claiming our allegiance.

L: We thank God that Jesus alone is Lord of our lives.

P: We are now free to love with his love and to embrace the world with compassion.

L: We offer our lives that we may obey God's commands.

P: May we serve in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Hymn: #264 - "At the Name of Jesus"**

Call to Confession

When we don't know how or what to pray, the Holy Spirit speaks for us. When the best we can offer is silence, the Holy Spirit shares the brokenness of our hearts. When we feel that we aren't even worthy to approach God, the Holy Spirit goes before us and speaks to our Father in Heaven on our behalf. With faith and humility let us confess our sins together.

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 Confession)

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen!

Assurance of Pardon

Jesus Christ is the King of glory and the Lord of hosts, who ascended triumphantly above the heavens. He will not abandon us, but will send us the promised one, the Spirit of truth. Blessed be the holy and undivided Trinity, now and forever. My friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

P: In Jesus Christ we are all forgiven. Amen!

***Gloria Patri Page 581**

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

L: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

P: And also, with you.

L: Let us pass the peace of Christ by waving the right hand of friendship to one another.

**SPECIAL MUSIC: - "You Ain't Seen the Last Of Jesus"-
Arr. Mauldin - (Chancel Choir)**

THE WORD

Psalm 47:1-9

Page (884)

Luke 24:44-53

Page (1645)

SERMON: "Does it Matter?"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn: - "He is Lord"**

(words on screen)

Prayers of the People and **The Lord's Prayer**

Litany for Ascension of the Lord

L: Arise, O Lord, in your strength.

P: We will praise you for your glory!

L: Let us pray with joy to Christ at the right hand of God, saying:
You are the king of glory!

L: You have raised the weakness of our flesh.
Heal us from our sins,
And restore to us the full dignity of life.

P: You are the king of glory!

L: May our faith lead us to the Father
as we follow the road you trod.

P: You are the king of glory!

L: You have promised to draw all people to yourself;
let no one of us be separate from your body.

P: You are the king of glory!

L: Grant that by our longing we may join you in your kingdom
Where your humanity and ours is glorified.

P: You are the king of glory!

L: You are true God, and you will be our judge,
so lead us to contemplate your tender mercy.

P: You are the king of glory!

L: O King of glory and Lord of hosts, who ascended triumphantly
above the heavens, do not abandon us, but send us the promised
one, the Spirit of truth. Blessed be the holy and undivided Trinity,
now and forever,

P: Amen.

Invitation to the Anointing

*Those who wish to be anointed with oil will come forward by way
of the center aisle. The pastor will trace the sign of the Cross on
the forehead with oil in the name of the Father, Son and Holy
Spirit.*

*After being anointed with oil, simply return to your pew by way of
the side aisles.*

***Doxology: "Praise God from Whom"Page 606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Benediction**

***Hymn: Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines" . . .Page 582**

Postlude