

## ASCENSION SUNDAY

May 12, 2024, at 8:30 and 11 am

*Ascension Day is the fortieth day after Easter, when Christ ascended into heaven. (Acts 1:1-11)*

*The St. Paul's family welcomes you as we worship God together.  
We strive to be full, active, conscious participants in our liturgical life together.*

### ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

#### VOLUNTARY

“Rejoice, the Lord is King”

Percy Whitlock

#### INTROIT

“Coelos ascendit hodie”

Charles Stanford

<i>Coelos ascendit hodie Jesus Christus Rex gloriae.</i>	Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, has ascended today into the heavens.
<i>Sedet ad Patris dexteram, Gubernat coelum et terram.</i>	He sits at the right hand of the Father and rules heaven and earth.
<i>Jam finem habent omnia Patris Davidis carmina.</i>	Now all the psalms of David, our father, are fulfilled.
<i>Jam Dominus cum Domino sedet in Dei solio.</i>	Now the Lord sits with the Lord on the seat of God.
<i>In hoc triumpho maximo benedicamus Domino.</i>	In this greatest of triumphs let us bless the Lord.
<i>Laudatur Sancta Trinitas. Deo dicamus gratias.</i>	The Holy Trinity be glorified. Let us give thanks to God.

#### WELCOME

*The congregation rises as the crucifer processes.*

#### HYMN 312

“Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”

LLANFAIR



1. Hail the day that sees him rise,	Al - le - lu - ia!	To his throne a -
2. There the glo - rious tri - umph waits,	Al - le - lu - ia!	Lift your heads, e -
3. See! the heaven its Lord re - ceives,	Al - le - lu - ia!	Yet he loves the
4. See! he lifts his hands a - bove,	Al - le - lu - ia!	See! he shows the



bove the skies,	Al - le - lu - ia!	Christ, a - while to mor - tals given,
ter - nal gates,	Al - le - lu - ia!	Christ hath con - quered death and sin,
earth he leaves,	Al - le - lu - ia!	Though re - turn - ing to his throne,
prints of love,	Al - le - lu - ia!	Hark! his gra - cious lips be - stow,



Al - le - lu - ia!	Re - as - cends his na - tive heaven,	Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!	Take the King of glo - ry in,	Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!	Still he calls the world his own,	Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!	Bless - ings on his church be - low,	Al - le - lu - ia!

## GREETING

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Grace and peace to you also.**

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.**

## COLLECT

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

*All sit.*

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM - 11 AM SERVICE

*Katie and Hunter Summerford*

*present their daughters*

TATUM HUNTER SUMMERFORD    BRIGHTON BIRDIE SUMMERFORD

*born May 4, 2022*

*born May 10, 2023*

HYMN 610 (*sung by all*)

“We Know That Christ Is Raised” (*Verse 2*)

ENGELBERG

**We share by water in his saving death. Reborn, we share with him an Easter life  
As living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!**

*After the children are baptized, the congregation responds in unison:*

**With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that Tatum Hunter and Brighton Birdie, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.**

HYMN 610 (*sung by all*)

“We Know That Christ Is Raised” (*Verse 3*)

ENGELBERG

**A new creation comes to life and grows as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.  
The universe restored and whole will sing: Alleluia!**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Open our hearts and minds, O God, by the power of your Holy Spirit, so that, as the Word is read, sung, and proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us this day. Amen.**

### FIRST LESSON

**Acts 1:1-11**

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 during 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 toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward 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."

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 47

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a cry of joy.  
For the Lord Most High is to be feared; he is the great King over all the earth.  
He subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet.  
He chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.  
God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.  
Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.  
For God is King of all the earth; sing praises with all your skill.  
God reigns over the nations; God sits upon his holy throne.  
The nobles of the peoples have gathered together with the people of the God of Abraham.  
The rulers of the earth belong to God, and he is highly exalted.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

### SECOND LESSON

**Ephesians 1:15-23**

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*All stand. During the hymn, children may come to the front of the sanctuary to be escorted to the Jones Building across the plaza for childcare (8:30 am service) or Children's Church (11 am service).*

### HYMN 173

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

RATISBON



1. Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly light, Sun of Righ-teous ness, a - rise,
2. Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee; joy-less is the day's re - turn,
3. Vis - it then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief; fill me, Ra - dian - cy di-vine,



tri-umph o'er the shades of night; Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.  
till thy mer-cy's beams I see; till they in-ward light im-part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.  
scat-ter all my un - be - lief; more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Stuart Beer

The congregation is invited to sing the "Alleluia" response below after it is introduced by the cantor.  
All turn to follow the procession and face the minister for the reading of the Gospel.



Cantor: Go and teach all nations, says the Lord. I am with you always until the end of the world.  
All repeat the "Alleluia" response.

## GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

All sing the "Alleluia" response printed above.  
Please remain standing until the Gospel procession has returned to the Chancel.

All sit.

You are invited to join in saying Psalm 19:14.

Let the words of my mouth  
and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,  
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. Amen.

## SERMON

"Being a Blessing"

Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald

## RESPONSES AND OFFERINGS

All stand.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

\*universal

All sit.

## PRAYER

## 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 for ever. Amen.

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*All exchange signs and words of God's peace.*

## REGISTRATION OF ATTENDANCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We're glad you are worshipping with us today. Please complete the Connect card (in the pew rack in front of you or online at [stpaulshouston.org/stream](http://stpaulshouston.org/stream)) to register your attendance and to share your prayer requests. If you wish to learn more about becoming a United Methodist Christian, one of our pastors will be glad to speak with you after today's service or indicate your interest on the Connect card or online.*

*Your faithful giving supports the ministries of St. Paul's throughout the year. You may make your offering using the QR code located on the back of this bulletin, in the pew rack in front of you, or at [stpaulshouston.org/stream](http://stpaulshouston.org/stream).*

### OFFERING (8:30 am service)

"Ubi Caritas"

*Maurice Duruflé*

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.  
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.  
Exsultemus, et in ipso jucundemur.  
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.  
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.*

Where charity and love are, there God is.  
The love of Christ has gathered us into one.  
Let us exult, and in him be joyful.  
Let us fear and let us love the living God.  
And from a sincere heart let us love each other.

### OFFERING (11 am service)

"God Is Ascended"

*Kenneth Leighton*

*St. Paul's Treble Choir & Jason Adams, trumpet*

God is ascended in jubilee and the Lord in the sound of the trumpet! Alleluia!  
Rejoice to God our helper. Sing aloud to the God of Jacob. Alleluia!

*All stand when the ushers come forward to present the offering.*

### DOXOLOGY, Hymn 94 - sung by all

*LASST UNS ERFREUEN*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
**Praise God, the source of all our gifts. Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts. Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit;**  
**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## HYMN

## "Alleluia, Sing to Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

1. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus! His the scep - ter, his the throne.  
 2. Al - le - lu - ia, bread of an - gels, thou on earth our food, our stay;  
 3. Al - le - lu - ia, not as or - phans are we left in sor - row now;

Al - le - lu - ia, his the tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone:  
 Al - le - lu - ia, here the sin - ful flee to thee from day to day:  
 Al - le - lu - ia, he is near us, faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how:

hark, the songs of peace - ful Si - on thun - der like a might - y flood;  
 In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, earth's Re - deem - er, plead for me,  
 though the cloud from sight re - ceived him, when the for - ty days were o'er,

Je - sus out of ev - ery na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.  
 where the songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
 shall our hearts for - get his pro - mise, "I am with you ev - er - more"?

## RECOGNITION OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Jack Arnold  
 Isai Arteaga  
 Hayley Bermont  
 Bennett Blewer  
 Lillyan Cantu  
 Christian Choate  
 Nathaniel Clark  
 Maxine Cramer  
 Lauren Cross  
 Ashley Davis  
 Isabelle Duran  
 Ryan Finlay

Evelyn Gau  
 Stephen Gee  
 Elizabeth Hsu  
 Ariaahna Hurtado  
 Alejandro Mejia  
 Michael Melgar  
 Kathleen Molineu  
 Miles Montondon  
 Catherine Moseley  
 Christian Ninan  
 Charlotte O'Callaghan  
 Luke Olshefski  
 Katherine Paguada

Ryan Patterson  
 Jose Penaloza  
 Ryder Plante  
 Sophia Porecca  
 Matthew Raatz  
 Nicholas Reagan  
 Abby Rivera  
 Hobed Saravia  
 Meredith Shoemaker  
 Kade Smith  
 Addysen Stover  
 Morgan Townsend

## BENEDICTION AND SOUNDING OF THE CHIMES

## VOLUNTARY

Marche Épiscopale  
 (8:30 am service)

Louis Vierne

Trumpet Voluntary  
 (11 am service)

John Stanley

**LAY READERS:** Luke Olshefski (8:30 am service) and Lauren Cross (11 am service)

**FLOWERS:** The flowers in the Chancel are placed to the glory of God in recognition of Mother's Day and in honor of our 2024 Graduating Class of Seniors.

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-729097.*

*Being in community with one another is an essential part of life at St. Paul's. To register your attendance, view and register for upcoming events, send a prayer request, or make a payment, donation, or offering, please scan the attached QR code or contact the church at 713-528-0527.*



## TODAY AT ST. PAUL'S

**Happy Mother's Day** - In showing our thanks for all moms and mother-figures, you are invited to the Welcome Tent to receive a flower for Mother's Day.

**College and Young Adult Mission Trip** - May 12-18. Please keep St. Paul's college students and young adults in your prayers this week as they travel to Gruene, TX, to volunteer doing home repairs. They will also have the opportunity to engage with other volunteers in meaningful worship and exciting community building activities.

**Foundation Scholarship Reception** - Today from 9:30 to 10:45 am in the Parlor. Join us for a reception to recognize 2024-25 St. Paul's Foundation scholarship recipients, their families, and Foundation donors.

## THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

**Fine Arts Academy Summer Registration.** It's time to register for summer art, Musikgarten classes, and individual lessons. Contact Helen Spaw at [hspaw@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:hspaw@stpaulshouston.org) for more information.

**Midweek Worship with Holy Communion** - Wednesdays at Noon in the Chapel. Open for all; led by St. Paul's clergy.

**MacGregor Elementary End-of-Year Field Day** - Friday, May 17, at MacGregor Elementary School. You are invited to help sponsor a frozen treats station to keep students refreshed and energized at Field Day. You can also donate funds to help reach the goal of 700 popsicles and 700 ice cream sandwiches by Sunday, May 12, or volunteer to set up, clean up, or pass out treats at the event. To volunteer or for more information, contact Rev. Nataly Negrete at [nataly@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:nataly@stpaulshouston.org).

## UPCOMING

**Popsicles on the Plaza for Pentecost** - *Sunday, May 19, throughout the morning.* Join us on the Plaza immediately following our 8:30 and 11 am worship services for a pop-up celebration of the church gathering together on Pentecost! Enjoy popsicles and friendship!

**Choral Scholars End-of-Year Concert** - *Sunday, May 19, at 4 pm in the Sanctuary.* We are grateful for the 2023-24 Choral Scholars and for the music they have provided over the past year in worship. All are invited to this concert where they will share their favorite musical selections from throughout the year. Reception in the Activities Center will follow the concert.

**Jazz on the Plaza** - *Thursday, May 23, from 5 to 7 pm on the Jones Plaza.* Experience St. Paul's on the Plaza through an evening of jazz, food, and fun! It is an opportunity to fellowship with family, friends, and the community. Bring the family and a blanket to sit on the grass while you enjoy dinner from food trucks in the circle drive.

**Choral Evensong for Trinity Sunday** - *May 26, at 4 pm in the Sanctuary.* St. Paul's Choir leads this service with music by Herbert Howells, Charles Stanford, and Bernard Rose.

**Pride Picnic** - *June 2, at Noon in Fondren Hall.* Because God's love envelopes all of us, please join us for our annual indoor Pride Picnic for all ages! Fun, food, games, and fellowship! Registration coming soon. If you would like to become involved with our Pride planning team, contact Rev. Nataly Negrete, [nataly@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:nataly@stpaulshouston.org).

**Youth Summer Kick-Off at Ole Moon** - *Friday & Saturday, June 7-8.* Youth are invited to a fun overnight trip to Ole Moon to celebrate the beginning of summer, departing at 10 am on Friday morning and returning to the church by 6 pm on Saturday. Contact Tiffin Wilsford for more information, [tiffin@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:tiffin@stpaulshouston.org).

**"All Things Strings" Kids Music Camp** - *Monday, June 10 - Friday, June 14, 9 am to Noon daily.* St. Paul's Kids Music Camp is a week of music-related activities geared toward children ages 5-12. Campers will have the opportunity to explore violin, viola, cello, string bass, guitar, harp, piano, and more. Before and after care is available. If you are interested or have more questions, please contact Susie Vanlandingham at [susie@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:susie@stpaulshouston.org).

**The Orchestral Organ** - *Sunday, June 16, beginning at 4 pm in the Sanctuary.* Chris Betts and Emily Amos will present a recital of popular orchestral classics transcribed to be played on the organ. For more information, contact Chris Betts, [cbetts@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:cbetts@stpaulshouston.org).



### ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5501 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77004

713-528-0527 [www.stpaulshouston.org](http://www.stpaulshouston.org)

Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald, Senior Minister