

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

Phone: 920-854-2804

www.ephraimmoravian.org

Ascension of the Lord - May 29, 2022

Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.

PASTOR:.....The Rev. Dawn E. Volpe
MINISTERS:.....Members of the Congregation
MUSIC DIRECTOR:.....Colin Welford
SECRETARY:.....Diane Kirkland

Serving the Community Since 1853

Call to Worship: Ringing of the Bell

“Andantino Cantabile” for alto saxophone & piano – by Lawson Lunde

Welcome & Announcements

Hymn #405 “Crown Him with Many Crowns” v. 1 - 3

Scripture Lessons: Acts 1: 1 - 11

“Allegro Animato” for clarinet & piano – by Camille Saint-Saëns

Sermon

Congregational Responsive Reading:

Lord Jesus Christ, You go before us;

That is what gives us courage to move forward.

Lord Jesus Christ, You walk beside us;

That is what assures us we are not alone.

Lord Jesus Christ, You abide within us;

That is what makes us complete.

Lord Jesus Christ, You reign above us;

That is what inspires us to reach new heights.

Lord Jesus Christ, You remain far beyond our human understanding;

Yet you hold each one of us in Your Love.

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the King of Heaven and Earth;

We worship and adore you. Amen.

Prayers of the Church, The Lord’s Prayer

Congregational Sung Response: (#825)

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord,

Incline your ear to us and grant us your peace. Amen.

Benediction

“Toccato” from Suite #1 – by Florence B. Price

WATCHWORD FOR THE ASCENSION: Christ said, “I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” – John 12:32

MONDAY: Pastor’s Sabbath

SUNDAY: 10:30 a.m. Worship

WELCOME to Ephraim Moravian Church. Our Nursery is open for children under the age of 4.

EPHRAIM MORAVIAN CHURCH is the ‘Church of the Open Door.’ We hope you find our church open to you in every way!

MOTTO OF THE MORAVIAN CHURCH: In Essentials, Unity, In Non-Essentials, Liberty, In All Things, Love.

EPHRAIM MORAVIAN WATCHWORD 2022: The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. – James 3:17

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME BACK to Linda Van Dyke, who will be sharing her talent with us today!

CALLING ALL MEN! Tomorrow, the First Baptist Men’s Chorus will be singing at the Memorial Day Service at Little Sister Cemetery. They are hoping you will join with your voice. Rehearsal is at the First Baptist Parking Lot at 9:30 a.m. They will proceed to the cemetery at 10:30. Please consider being a part of this inspirational service!

Our Responsive Reading is taken from:

<http://www.stjamesmanston.church/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ASCENSION-DAY-LITURGY-2021.pdf>

WHAT NEXT? Acts I: 1-11. by Kathleen Harris

He was here, until He wasn't. Then He came back but left again, rising upwards, hidden by a cloud. If I were one of the apostles, squinting at the sky, I would have shaken my head and mumbled, "What next?"

Action, that's what's next, was the answer given by two strangers in white. They had suddenly appeared. "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven?" Class with the physical Jesus was over. It was time to venture forth to share His message of love and redemption. The Holy Spirit, a different kind of encounter with God, was coming with gifts of confidence and guidance.

The last few years have been a "what next?" kind of world, a surprising ocean of confusion. First, a decade of tumultuous change: technological, social, world order... not to mention new understandings in what constitutes good manners and correct punctuation! Then a bizarre kind of pause during the first year of the pandemic, a time of letting go of people and assumptions, a time of startling revelations. More recently, a quick succession of dramatic events, heightened by the 24-hour news cycle. All while living in a beautiful, outwardly serene Door County bubble. In a way, it mirrors the last weeks of Jesus' earthly life. I can empathize with the apostles who experienced the ascension, frozen in place, staring at the sky, mouths agape.

But for them and us, the sky is not where to look. Instead, take a page from the playbook of Acts. Let's steady ourselves with purposeful deeds of sacred meditation. Prayer, sacraments, and fellowship are ways to witness. So is caring for creation and serving the broken and broken-hearted. Yes, it can all be quite annoying, these rollicking waves of uncertainty. Some days simply mustering a kind and measured response to a neighbor's idiosyncrasies is a challenge. But like the apostles, we have been called to discern and share Holy Truth. The outcome of the ascension story is all about movement. In the words of Todd Beamer*, "Let's roll."

*Todd Beamer perished on September 11, 2001, on Flight 93.

Source: Working Preacher, May 12, 2013, Brian Peterson.