

Banning United Methodist Church

Ascension Sunday

May 21, 2023

MEDITATIVE THOUGHT

Open my heart and all my senses to receive Your Word today, dear Lord.

PRELUDE

WELCOMING FRIENDS and NEWCOMERS

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

MINISTRY MOMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

†CALL TO WORSHIP

L: What a glorious vision!

P: Jesus gave the glorious promise of an Advocate!

L: Then He ascended to God!

P: What joy there must have been in the hearts of the disciples.

L: May God find such joy in our hearts and spirits!

P: Prepare us, Lord, for the mighty works You place before us.

†OPENING HYMN

"The Church's One Foundation" vs. 1, 3 & 5

UMH #545

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of amazing visions, prepare our hearts and our spirits this day to receive Your glad tidings of an Advocate. Help prepare us to be Your disciples in everything we do, say, and think, for we ask this in the Name of our beloved Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 68:1-10 NRSV

¹Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him. ²As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God. ³But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy. ⁴Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—his name is the Lord— be exultant before him. ⁵Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. ⁶God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land. ⁷O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, Selah ⁸the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel. ⁹Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished; ¹⁰your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 1:6-14 NRSV

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They 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."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying,

Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

†**HYMN** "Amazing Grace" vs, 1, 3 & 6

UMH #378

MESSAGE "The Art of Woo"

PRAYERS OF THE PASTOR and PEOPLE

Children in Prayer

(After all slides: In Your mercy, **Lord, hear our prayer**)

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral 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 forever. Amen.

GIVING BACK TO GOD (TITHES AND GIFTS)

†**DOXOLOGY** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of wisdom and guidance, steer us, we pray, through our anxious times. The gifts we bring this day are a small part of all we have received. Remind us that it is Jesus we offer to the world, not us. Help us to cast our anxieties on Jesus, for the one the tomb could not hold can carry our anxiety with ease. In the Name of Jesus, Who broke the hold of death once and for all. Amen.

†**CLOSING HYMN** "A Charge to Keep I Have" vs. 1 & 4

UMH #413

†**BENEDICTION**