

WORSHIP NOTES

The Prayer for Illumination: The lectors (Scripture readers) are offering a prayer before the Word is read and proclaimed. In Reformed Worship, this is known as the Prayer for Illumination. It goes as far back as John Calvin and was included in the liturgy used in Geneva and in John Knox’s liturgy as well. Our *Book of Order’s* Directory for Worship states: *A prayer for illumination calls on the Holy Spirit to empower the reading, understanding, proclaiming, and living of God’s Word. This sense of utter reliance on the illumination of the Spirit is an important and distinctive mark of the Reformed tradition. The prayer for illumination precedes the reading of Scripture and preaching of the sermon and applies to all of the readings, as well as the proclamation of the Word.* (W-3.0302)

Thursday, May 10, was Ascension of the Lord Day on the church calendar. Ascension Day is marked on the 40th day after Easter. It is the day on which, according to the opening verses of Acts of the Apostles, Jesus ascended into heaven. Luke, the author of Acts, mentions the Ascension briefly at the end of his Gospel.

Though the New Testament writers don’t devote a lot of words to explaining the details and significance of Jesus’ ascent, the Ascension would become an essential part of Christian doctrine. Both the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds include a statement about the Ascension. The church was celebrating the Feast of the Ascension as early as the fifth century, if not earlier. The Roman Catholic Church lists the Feast of the Ascension as a solemnity, or principal holy day. Protestants have not traditionally marked Ascension Day with special services, perhaps because it occurs on a Thursday. The lectionary texts for Ascension Day are sometimes read on the Seventh (and final) Sunday of Easter. It is after Jesus ascends into heaven that the Holy Spirit is poured out on the followers of Jesus on the day of Pentecost.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! is an Ascension hymn written by William Chatterton Dix. It appeared in *Altar Songs* (1867) and was entitled “Redemption by the Precious Blood.” Of particular emphasis is the number of titles given to Jesus Christ in stanzas 3 and 4. The first, “Bread of angels,” is a reference to Psalm 78:25 and an allusion to John 6:32.

Martin Edward Fallas Shaw OBE, FRCM (born London, England, March 9, 1875; died Southwold, Suffolk, England, Oct. 24, 1958), composer of *With a Voice of Singing*, was an English organist, composer, conductor and (in his early life) theatre producer. He studied with Charles Villiers Stanford at the Royal College of Music in London. His over 300 published works include songs, hymns, carols, oratorios, several instrumental works, a congregational mass setting and four operas including a ballad opera. He championed the popularity of music in communities, and is credited with improving the standards of singing in parish churches.

THE FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. O. Christian Gundersen and Gordon Robert Gundersen.

✠

NEXT SUNDAY’S PREACHER will be the Rev. Rebekah McLeod Hutto.

THE BRICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Parish House: 62 East 92nd Street, New York, New York 10128-1398 | On the web at www.brickchurch.org
phone: 212-289-4400 day school: 212-289-5683 email addresses: www.brickchurch.org/contact

MINISTERS

The Rev. Dr. Kimberly L. Clayton, *Transitional Senior Minister*
The Revs. Douglas T. King, Rebekah McLeod Hutto, Adam D. Gorman,
Associate Ministers

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Keith S. Tóth, *Minister of Music and Organist*
Amanda Page Smith, *Director of Children’s Music Ministries*

USHERS

Officer-in-Charge: Kent McKamy; *Team Captain:* Christopher L. Allen; John P. Argenti, Townsend Baldwin, John J. Batten III, David Berkman, Horace I. Crary, Jr., Helen T. W. Elmiger, Kevin R. Greene, Charles C. Higgins, Michael F. Magsig, Christopher M. Mason, James R. McNab, Paul F. Mercurio, Jennifer D. Morton, Christopher L. Randall, Petra S. Slater, John W. Steen II, Hence I. Orme, William T. Fennebresque.

ORDER OF ST. PAUL

Michael J. Appleby, Nathan P. Appleby, Leah C. Lee, Deborah M. Li, Caroline C. Pickering, Alexander N. Rahman.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Soprano: R. Lynne Lee, Isabella Livorni, Tonna L. Miller-Vallés, Artemisz Polonyi, Melissa Raymond, Catherine Thorpe. *Alto:* Sónia Batten, Agueda Fernández-Abad, Allison Gish, Mary Runyan Marathe, Melissa Raymond. *Tenor:* Richard Liebowitz, Jeremy Little, Johnny Maldonado, Jeffrey Taveras. *Bass:* William S. Crutchfield III, Daniel Hoy, Scott Lindroth, Ryan Stoudt, Nathaniel Sullivan.

SESSION

Patrick A. F. Blott, Anita J. Brickell, Chloe G. Chun (*Youth Elder*), Susan P. Crary, Paul J. Elmlinger, Scripture Z. Gonzalez, Mimi K. Hah, Shannon D. Henderson, William S. Hilburn, Anne R. Huneke, Stefan Krüger, R. Lynne Lee, Sue-Peng Li, Guillaume A. Malle, Robert D. McCrie, Elizabeth M. Philipp, Brian J. Pitz, Debra N. Seraphim, Richard H. Stowe, Mario J. Verdolini, Jr., Katherine C. Vosters, Cynthia Watson, Marjorie G. Widener, Roland L. Wikström, Suzanne W. Wilson.

DEACONS

Linda R. Arnold, Bret M. Barasch, Arthur W. Bingham, Nancy T. Blair, Elizabeth A. Boehmler, Carl C. Cordova III, Anne M. Christon, E. Graham Clark, David M. Darst, Pamela J. Dickson-Thorpe, James B. Doswell, Helen T. W. Elmiger, Marc T. Engberg, John W. Frehse, Joseph A. Galloway, Jeffrey B. Gower, William P. Hah (*Youth Deacon*), Cathy Leonhardt, Jane B. Lowry, Katrina K. Masterson, Amelia McDonald, Oliver T. Moses, Sabina Rahman, M. Paige Rustum, Linda A. Simpson, Andrew R. Skobe, John W. Steen II, David M. Wells.

TRUSTEES

Charles S. Anderson, Kenneth W. Austin, Patrick D. Barrett, Erik M. W. Caspersen, Kevin R. Greene, Linda B. Gridley, Timothy D. Haskin, Helen M. Lynch, Valerie S. Mason, Richard A. Miller, Drucilla A. Richards, Willis G. Ryckman IV, Louisa J. Palmer, *Treasurer*.

— THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR —

Seventh Sunday of Easter

— ELEVEN O’CLOCK —

WELCOME The moments before worship are a transition from “getting here” to “being here.” Since it usually takes a few minutes to quiet one’s mind, and to become open to the Spirit, it is most appropriate to give one’s friends a silent wave of the hand, a nod of the head, or a friendly smile in lieu of initiating a conversation.

AFTER THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN, in order not to disrupt the worship service, latecomers will be seated by the ushers only at times when the congregation is standing, either during the Congregational Response following the assurance of forgiveness or during the second hymn.

VISITORS, please know how welcome you are. Please sign the Friendship Book when it passes you during the service of worship and identify yourself with a name tag to be found in the book. You are also cordially invited to attend Coffee Hour following worship.

IN THE ORDER OF WORSHIP that follows, an asterisk invites all to stand; items in bold type face indicate that the congregation participates in word or song.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE DAY
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1:1-6
1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

“Méditation, *op. 31, no. 15*”
Keith S. Tóth, *organist*

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CHORAL INTROIT *George Thalben-Ball (1896-1987)*
“Seek Ye the Lord”
Seek ye the Lord while He may be found: call ye upon Him while He is near.

* CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 47)*

Leader: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.
People: For the Lord, the Most High is awesome!
Leader: God rules over the nations from the holy throne.
People: God rules over all the earth. Sing praises to God, sing praises!

*** PROCESSIONAL HYMN 150** *Madrid*
“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

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 the honor and glory due His name. Forgive us and raise us from sin, we pray, that we may be Your faithful people. Help us to follow Him into the future He has prepared for us, for the church, and the whole world. In His name, we pray. Amen.

KYRIE 574 *David N. Johnson (1922-1987)*
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**
Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *(Hymn 147, verse 4)*** *O quinta qualia*
Give we the glory and praise to the Lamb;
Take we the robe and the harp and the palm;
Sing we the song of the Lamb that was slain,
Dying in weakness but rising to reign.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

HYMN 498 *Kingdom*
“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”
(Verse 1)
Please remain seated.

The children being baptized today are:

Elizabeth Inman Blais,
daughter of Sarah Allen Blais and David Mark Blais

Laird Jois Blaustein,
daughter of Christina Osborne Stevens Winters and Howard Alan Blaustein

Margot Julian DeMarse,
daughter of Brittany Megan Swenson and Daniel Cox DeMarse

William Tudor Fennebresque, Jr.,
son of Kinsey Banzet Fennebresque and William Tudor Fennebresque

Eleanor Bounds Hamilton,
daughter of Caroline Pyle Hamilton and Christopher Waters Hamilton

George Arthur Harman,
son of Katherine Amy Harman and Clark Alexander Harman

*Elders Peter J. Manning, William S. Hilburn, Elizabeth M. Philipp,
Grace M. Diggs, Cynthia Watson, Sue-Peng Li and Helen B. Pennoyer
will assist with today’s baptisms.*

BAPTISMAL QUESTIONS AND PRAYER

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise...

BAPTISM

BLESSING AND WELCOME

HYMN 498 *Kingdom*
“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”
(Verses 2-4)
Please remain seated.

THE WORD

Children will be dismissed for Sunday Church School classes after the baptisms.

*** HYMN 495** *Engelberg*
“We Know That Christ Is Raised”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Debra N. Seraphim

Acts 1:1-14 (Pew Bible, page III N.T.)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON *Rev. Kimberly L. Clayton*
”Faith Always Leans Forward”

THE RESPONSE

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, INTERCESSION, AND PETITION

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us pray..

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *America*
Not for this land alone,
But be God’s mercies shown from shore to shore;
And may the nations see that we must loving be,
And form one family the wide world o’er. Amen.

* INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Martin Shaw (1875-1958)*
“With a Voice of Singing”
With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia. Utter it even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord hath delivered His people, Alleluia. O be joyful in God, all ye lands, O sing praises to the honor of His name, make His praise to be glorious. —*Isaiah 48:20*

*** DOXOLOGY 592** *Old Hundredth*
Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SENDING

*** RECESSIONAL HYMN 144** *Hyfrydol*
“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!”

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE *Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704)*
“Prélude” *(Te Deum)*
Keith S. Tóth, *organist*

If you would like someone to pray with you or wish to learn more about the Christian faith and The Brick Church, you may meet with members of our Sunday Prayer Team after the service near the pulpit at the front of the Sanctuary.