

Ascension Sunday  
05.21.23

HOPE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



**Know God | Love People | Seek Renewal**

[hopebtown.org](http://hopebtown.org)

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# God Gathers — We Prepare

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## Worship Theme: The Ascended, Exalted Christ

*“No one has ascended into heaven except He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man”... Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”*

— John 3:13; 20:17

*“Christ was exalted in His ascension, in that having after His resurrection often appeared unto and conversed with His apostles, speaking to them of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God, and giving them commission to preach the gospel to all nations, forty days after His resurrection, He, in our nature, and as our head, triumphing over enemies, visibly went up into the highest heavens, there to receive gifts for men, to raise up our affections thither, and to prepare a place for us, where Himself is, and shall continue till his second coming at the end of the world.”*

— Answer to Westminster Larger Catechism Question 53

**Preparation for Worship** (Please take a few moments to prepare your heart to encounter the Living God)

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# God Calls — We Praise

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*Call to Worship* (Standing)

**Psalm 24:1-6,9,10**

Leader The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

**All Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place?**

Leader He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up His soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

**All He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of His salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

Leader Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?

**All The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory!**

## *Song of Praise*

### **"Crown Him With Many Crowns"**

**All**      **Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne;  
Hark! how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own:  
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him Who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the Lord of love; behold His hands and side,  
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:  
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends His burning eye at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave,  
And rose victorious through the strife for those He came to  
save.**

**His glories now we sing, Who died, and rose on high,  
Who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.**

**Crown Him the Lord of peace, Whose pow'r a scepter sways  
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer  
and praise:**

**His reign shall know no end; and round His pierced feet  
Fair flow'rs of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown Him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time,  
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime:**

**All hail, Redeemer, hail! for Thou hast died for me;  
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.**

Words: Matthew Bridges, 1851; Music: George J. Elvey, 1868.

## *Prayer of Adoration*

## *Song of Praise*

### "In Christ Alone"

All      In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied,  
For every sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine—  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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## God Invites — We Confess

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*Community Confession of Sin* (Be seated or kneel)

**Hebrews 4:14-16**

**Leader** Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

**All** **Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

*Personal Confession of Sin* (Silence is kept)

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## God Assures — We Give Thanks

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*Assurance of Pardon*

**Hebrews 9:12-14**

**Leader** He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

# Song of Assurance

"My Jesus I Love Thee"

All In tenderness He sought me,  
Weary and sick with sin,  
And on His shoulders brought me  
Into His flock again,  
While angels in His presence sang,  
Until the courts of heaven rang.

*Chorus:*

Oh, the love that sought me!  
Oh, the blood that bought me!  
Oh, the grace that brought me to the fold,  
Wondrous grace that brought me to the fold!  
Wondrous grace that brought me to the fold!

He washed the bleeding sin-wounds,  
And poured in oil and wine;  
He whispered to assure me,  
"I've found you, you are Mine!"  
I never heard a sweeter voice,  
It made my aching heart rejoice. *Chorus*

He pointed to the nail-prints,  
For me His blood was shed;  
A mocking crown so thorny,  
Was placed upon His head.  
I wondered what He saw in me  
To suffer such deep agony. *Chorus*

I'm sitting in His presence,  
The sunshine of His face,  
While with adoring wonder  
His blessings I retrace.  
It seems as if eternal days  
Are far too short to sound His praise. *Chorus*

So while the hours are passing,  
All now is perfect rest;  
I'm waiting for the morning,  
The brightest and the best,  
When He will call us to His side  
To be with Him, His spotless Bride. *Chorus*

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# We Bless Our Children

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*HopeKids*

**Honoring & Blessing our Children**

**Leader** Jesus points to children, and says to all of us, “Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

**All** Jesus says, “Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”

**Leader** I, your elder...

**Parents** We, your parents ...

**All** We, your church family ...

**All** We pray God’s continued blessing upon you. May you grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Children ages 4 - 2nd grade are now dismissed to Children’s Sunday School!  
Parents, please escort your children to their classroom at this time. They are also of course welcome to remain in the service if preferred as well!*



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# **Christ as Prophet – The Word to Us**

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## *Scripture Reading* (Standing)

### **Acts 1:1-11**

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

**Reader** This is the Word of the Lord

**All** Thanks be to God!

*Sermon* (Be Seated)

**Elder Seth Baysinger**

**Title: "Ascension to Mission - Christ's Kingdom on Earth"**

**Text: Acts 1:1-11**

**Introduction –**

**1. Ascension is Tied to Incarnation**

**2. Ascension is Tied to Worship**

**3. Ascension is Tied to Mission**

**Conclusion:**

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# **Christ as Priest – The Sacrament for Us**

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*Profession of Faith* (Standing)

**Ephesians 4:7-16**

Leader But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says,

All **“When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men.”** (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

**And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry,**

**For building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,**

**So that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.**

**Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”**

# Sharing Christ's Welcome

## Prayer at the Table

### Words of Institution

## Approaching the Table

### Instructions

Gluten free bread is available.

Tinted cups contain wine; clear cups contain grape juice.

Take the bread and drink when you come forward, and return to your seat with both.

We'll commune together.

### Should you join the meal?

This is a "means of grace"—a method of encouragement from God, a sign and symbol for those who entrust themselves to Jesus Christ. It's not for perfect people, it's for broken people. It's for you if you affirm that because of your sins, you are worse and more messed up than you even realize; and yet you are more loved and accepted than you had ever dared hope—by God's mercy given through faith alone in the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ for you.

### Children

Should talk with a pastor about personal faith in Christ before taking the Lord's Supper. If your child has not been baptized or professed personal faith before a church community, they're still encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing.

### If you're not joining the Supper

We don't want this to be an awkward time. You can come forward for prayer or a blessing. You can also remain seated and reflect on or pray about the service, including the guided prayers below. We're glad you're with us.

## Guided Prayers

### If you're searching for the Truth

"God, if you are there, I want to ask good questions and be teachable to receive reasonable answers. I want to feel permission to wrestle, doubt, and question, yet not be satisfied with remaining perpetually here. I need humility to be an honest appraiser of my own longings and struggles, and how sin might be active in these. If you're real, please meet me."

### If you're struggling

"Jesus, please show me any misplaced longings in my heart. Enable me to look to you alone for contentment and for the rest my soul craves. Please give me faith to see you as one who has encountered the burden of my struggle, yet overcome temptation and restlessness as my champion."

### If you're at a place of belief

"Lord, I admit the extent of my weakness and sinfulness, and the expanse of your lavish love and forgiveness. I believe you have accepted me because of the life, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Thank you for this gift of grace. Thank you for paying my debt for sin and cleansing my heart through the gospel. By faith, I want to turn from my sin and receive Jesus as my Rescuer and Ruler."

## *Song of Celebration*

### "Before the Throne of God Above"

All      Before the throne of God above,  
I have a strong and perfect plea,  
A great High Priest whose name is "Love,"  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on His hands,  
My name is written on His heart;  
I know that while in heav'n He stands,  
No tongue can bid me thence depart,  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,  
And tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look and see Him there,  
Who made an end to all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died,  
My sinful soul is counted free;  
For God, the Just, is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me,  
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there! the risen Lamb,  
My perfect, spotless Righteousness,  
The great unchangeable I AM,  
The King of glory and of grace!  
One with Himself I cannot die,  
My soul is purchased by His blood,  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
With Christ, my Savior and my God,  
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

Words by Charitie Lees Bancroft (1841-1892), music and alt. words by Vikki Cook.  
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# Christ as King – The Lord Over Us

## Coronation Anthem (Standing)

### The Doxology

731

### Doxology

*Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Ps. 150:6*

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:  
praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Chords: G, D, Em, Bm, Em, D, G, D, Em, C, G, D, Em, D, G, D, G, C, D, G, D, G, Em, D, Am, G, D, G, C, G

Thomas Ken, 1709

OLD HUNDRETH L.M.  
Louis Bourgeois's Genevan Psalter, 1551

## Offering Our Prayers

- *For Hope Presbyterian Church... for its ministries and for its people.*
- *For Expectant Mothers: Emily Hamill (Aug)*
- *For our Men's Ministry*
- *For our Women's Ministry*
- *For our Children's Ministry*
- *For our RUF Ministry*

## The Lord's Prayer

**All      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 Trespases 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.**

## Offering our Gifts

*(If you'd like to make your offering online you can head to Hope's homepage:  
[www.hopebtown.org](http://www.hopebtown.org) Head to the "Connect" heading, click on "Donate," and follow the  
prompts. We're grateful for your generous and sacrificial giving!)*

### **Luke 24:51-53**

*"While he blessed them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God."*

## Vision Ahead

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# God Sends — We Enter our Mission

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## *Song of Sending*

“Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder”

All     Let us love and sing and wonder,  
Let us praise the Savior’s name  
He has hushed the law’s loud thunder  
He has quenched Mount Sinai’s flame  
He has washed us with His blood (3x)  
He has brought us nigh to God

Let us love the Lord who bought us  
Pitied us when enemies  
Called us by His grace and taught us  
Gave us ears and gave us eyes  
He has washed us with His blood (3x)  
He presents our souls to God

Let us sing though fierce temptation  
Threatens hard to bear us down  
For the Lord, our strong salvation,  
Holds in view the conqu’ror’s crown  
He who washed us with His blood, (3x)  
Soon will bring us home to God

Let us wonder grace and justice  
Join and point to mercy’s store  
When through grace in Christ our trust is  
Justice smiles and asks no more  
He who washed us with His blood (3x)  
Has secured our way to God

Let us praise and join the chorus  
Of the saints enthroned on high  
Here they trusted Him before us  
Now their praises fill the sky  
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood (3x)  
Thou art worthy Lamb of God



# Benediction

## **Jude 24**

*“Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”*

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# About Hope

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## Weekly Wednesday Prayer

Hope's Weekly Wednesday Prayer Meetings occur every **Wednesday** at the church at **7pm**. We would love for you to join us!

## Sojourn House Supplies Drive

Sojourn House is in need of supplies for their Life Skills classes! If you'd like to donate, please take a handout on the table in the foyer for more information. Contact Elizabeth Barber with any questions!

## Women's Tea

Ladies, please join us **Today** after the worship service, for a ladies tea! This will be a fun way to "wrap up" our Bible study and spend some time together in fellowship. We will play a fun game, listen to a short devotional, and also have time to share what God has been teaching us this year. Even if you haven't been able to attend the Bible studies, please still join us at the tea!

Address:

3720 E Commodore Trail  
Bloomington, IN 47408

# Hope Ministries

## Women's Ministry

We have wrapped up our Bible study for the year and will take a break meeting together for the summer.

## Men's Wednesday Morning Fellowship

You are invited to join Seth and others guys from Hope every other Wednesday morning starting at 6:00am at Cloverleaf Westside (4023 W 3rd St.) for food and fellowship! Please text Seth if you plan to join.

## Reformed University Fellowship

Please contact Eric Whitley for additional details/info! [www.rufindiana.org](http://www.rufindiana.org)  
| FB Group: RUF Indiana | Instagram: [@rufindiana](https://www.instagram.com/rufindiana)

## Serving Spotlight

We encourage everyone at Hope to find ways to serve in the body. Here are a few:

**Sunday morning Set-up/Sound/Hospitality:** Set up/tear down; help on the sound team! Questions? Reach out to Vivian at [vivianfurnish@gmail.com](mailto:vivianfurnish@gmail.com)

**Cleaning Crew:** Help take care of our church building by claiming a week to clean! Sign up sheet on the utility closet door. Please see Vivian with any questions.

**Serving Hope by Cleaning this week:**

**Nursery/Roots Teachers:** Help care for the children of Hope on Sunday mornings! Questions? Reach out to [children@hopebtown.org](mailto:children@hopebtown.org)

**Serving in the Nursery this week:** *Derrick Held, Finley Andrew*

**Serving in Roots this week:** *Mary Beth Peach*

## Finance Spotlight

**2023 Year To-Date Giving:**

**Budget Year-To-Date:**

## Attendance Spotlight

**Last Sunday: 37**

# Connecting with Hope

## HopePres Servant-Leaders

Bob Clark	<b>Interim Pastor</b>	session@hopebtown.org
Seth Baysinger	<b>Ruling Elder</b>	session@hopebtown.org
Bradley Fullbright	<b>Ruling Elder</b>	session@hopebtown.org
Kelie Baysinger	<b>Office Admin Women's Team Lead</b>	officeadmin@hopebtown.org baysingers822@gmail.com
Derrick Held	<b>Treasurer</b>	treasurer@hopebtown.org
Vivian Furnish	<b>Volunteer Coordinator</b>	vivianfurnish@gmail.com
Jordan Fullbright	<b>Director of Children's Ministry</b>	children@hopebtown.org
Michael Stettler	<b>Ministry Intern</b>	michaellstettler@gmail.com

## RUF Campus Ministry

Rev. Eric Whitley	<b>Campus Minister</b>	eric.whitley@ruf.org
Nic Recasens	<b>RUF Intern</b>	nic.recasens@ruf.org

## Online

Homepage: [www.hopebtown.org](http://www.hopebtown.org)  
FlockNote: text "HopeBTown" to 84576, follow the prompts

## About Flocknote:

Hope uses Flocknote to communicate through email and text messaging. Your phone number and email address remain private. This allows us to:

1. Communicate regular church announcements through email.
2. Communicate emergency or last-minute info via email or text.
3. Communicate easily to different groups of people.

You can join Flocknote by texting "HopeBTown" to 84576 and then follow the prompts. That puts you in the church-wide group. You can then join subgroups (community groups, Bible studies, etc.) by talking to those groups' leaders.

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