



**ST. PAUL'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

235 South Main Street, Woodstock, VA 22664

Office: (540) 459-3643

Sunday School: 9:45 A.M. Worship: 11:00 A.M.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 16, 2021

Graduation Sunday

Rev. Anne Findlay-Chamberlain, Minister

Come, Grow, Serve

*Indicates that the congregation stands

PRELUDE

“Icarus”

Peyton McCarthy

(During the prelude, let us be in silence preparing our hearts for worship.)

SILENT PRAYER FOR MEDITATION

Spend these moments of silence to let these words soak into your heart and your mind: “When you went to bed last night Jesus was at work subduing his enemies. While you slept he was continuing to rule over the world. He was still at it when you woke up this morning and even now as you read this. That is the outrageous claim of the ascension.”

~ Tim Chester & Jonny Woodrow

“At His Ascension our Lord entered Heaven, and He keeps the door open for humanity to enter.” Oswald Chambers

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We await God’s instructions for our lives.

Many: We eagerly look forward to learning more about ways to serve God.

One: The time is coming when our service will be needed here.

Many: Let God’s love flood through our service to others

One: Wait! Listen! The time is near!

All: **Open our hearts and spirits, O Lord, to hear your word for us today. AMEN.**

OPENING MUSIC "Thine is the Glory"
<https://youtu.be/FTXUsKFecJs>

CALL TO CONFESSION

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We have to confess, O Lord, that we are people who want to have everything proven for us. We hear the message in the scripture of Jesus' ascension, and we smile smugly, not truly believing the vision. Forgive us for our arrogant doubts and attitudes of smugness. Help us remember that everything Jesus taught us was to prepare us to help build God's realm here on earth. We are called to be people of faith, not of absolute proof, as we understand it. Let us place our trust in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Let us look with eyes of faith as he ascends to the Father. We pray in his Name, AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HONORING OUR GRADUATE Peyton McCarthy

TIME FOR CHILDREN "What Goes Up"

ANTHEM "Homeward Bound" Marta Keen
Hand-Bell Choir

SCRIPTURE Acts 1:1-11 Allen Brill

SERMON "In the Cloud"

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

You are not only risen and alive, you are Lord.

You stand over the whole universe.

You stand over and above all that is best in life as its source.

You stand above all that is worst as the ultimate victor.

You stand above all powers and authorities as judge.

You stand above all failure and weakness and sin as forgiveness and love.

**You alone are worthy of total allegiance, total commitment.
You are Lord, 'My Lord and my God.'**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

(using "debts" and "debtors")

OFFERING DEDICATION

CLOSING MUSIC "There's a Story to Tell to the Nations"
<https://youtu.be/wwFzG9diull>

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" Gesangbuch

Organist: Emily Koon

Music Director: Mary Catlett

ANNOUNCEMENTS/BIRTHDAYS/PRAYER LIST

WELCOME! As we worship today, we trust you feel God's presence, as well as the warmth of Christians who love the Lord and one another. Come and worship again!

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF SAINT PAUL'S UCC, Woodstock VA is to recognize God as our Father, friend to all, and with his help teach the Bible as God's inspired word; to promote and encourage Christianity as the centerpiece in the lives of individuals, families, and the world community.

ALTAR FLOWERS:

The flowers are given by Meg Trott to celebrate with gratitude and thanksgiving for our wonderful close-knit St. Paul's family!

REMINDERS:

- May 16 – Graduation Sunday
- 17 – 7:00 p.m. Worship and Music Team meeting
- 19 – 3:00 p.m. Sacred Seasons in the parlor and on Zoom
- 22 – Wedding of Lerin Tusing and Ronald Baker
- 23 – Pentecost with Communion and Junior Church (wear red)

Kola Class: Sundays, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Join in the discussion and fellowship about upcoming sermon texts and what God might be saying to us through Bible texts on Zoom and in-person.

BIRTHDAYS for this week:

May 16 – Margie Cook
17 – Linda Sheetz
19 – Ron Bankert
21 – Josh Orndorff
23 – Teddy Snarr

ANNIVERSARIES for this week:

May 19 – Patty and Tom Snarr

E-MAILS & Phone Numbers

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Pastor's:
stpastor@shentel.net

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Rev. Anne's phone (808) 282-4631
Address: 740 Jackson St., Woodstock

PRAYERS and CARDS

Donna Babcock
Margie Cook
Martin Cullers
Carol Czarneski
Dr. Jerry Germroth
Randy and Valorie
Hockman

Wes Irvin
Jake Johnson
Daniel Rohne Kasten
Nora Long
Cheri May

Spencer McIntosh
Jessie Payne
Craig Smith
Jack Sullivan
Pete Wright

Prayers for peace and
unity for all

Prayers for the families of
the 133 people who have
died in ShCo from COVID

Best wishes to Peyton and all graduates during this 2021 season!



Congratulations