

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 1: 1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have 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, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.¹¹ They 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."

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

*HYMN #2070 (TFWS) He is Exalted (2x)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

(After Children's Moment, children age 3 – 5th grade are invited to Children's Church in Room L8, located downstairs. Children will return to the Sanctuary to receive Communion with their families.)

SERMON

~ Rev. Jett McReynolds

*HYMN #173 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies RATISBON

*CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**Merciful God,
We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will, we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Hear the good news:

Jesus died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! **Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAREWELL TO JETT

The church is a family. United by common recognition of Jesus Christ as our Savior, we are all siblings. And, for a time, Mount Olivet is our home. Together we have laughed and cried, together we have worshiped and praised God, together we have lived.

We feel sorrow in your leaving, yet we rejoice with you in anticipation of this new phase of your life. We will miss your love and support, your leadership and voice, your care and compassion, yet we know you will add much to the lives of those who will be your new church family, as you have added much to our lives.

We will pray for you and for the whole family of God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(After each petition, the congregation responds with: **Hear our prayer.**)*

Thanksgiving

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

Glory to the Lamb David Blackwell
Come, let us join our cheerful songs with angels round the throne; ten thousand are their tongues, but all their joys are one: Alleluia, Alleluia glory to the lamb. "Worthy the lamb that died," they cry, "to be exalted, thus;" and "Worthy the Lamb," our lips reply, "for he was slain for us:" Alleluia, Alleluia glory to the lamb. Let all that dwell above the sky, and in the earth and seas, combine to lift your glories high, and seeing your endless praise. Let all creation join in one, to bless the sacred name of him that sits upon the throne, and to adore the Lamb: Glory to the Lamb.

*DOXOLOGY #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

See Musical Setting D, pp. 23A-24A in the *United Methodist Hymnal*.

[We offer a gluten-free element option and always use grape juice, not wine]

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(spoken)*

RECEIVING COMMUNION

Fraction Anthem, Sanctus Richard Proulx
Holy, holy holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

He, Whom Angels Worship Alan Bullard
I cannot tell why He, whom angels worship, should pour His love upon the human race, or why, as Shepherd, He should seek the wanderers to bring back within the fold of. But I know that He was born of Mary, when Bethlehem's manger was His only home and that He lived and labored in Nazareth, and so the savior of the world is come. I cannot tell how silently He suffered, as with His peace He graced this place of tears, or how His heart upon the cross was broken, the crown of pain to three and thirty years. But this, I know he heals the brokenhearted, forgives our sin, and calms our inmost fear, and lifts the burden from the heavy laden, for yet the savior of the world is here. I cannot tell how the land shall worship when, at His bidding, every storm is stilled. Or who can say how great the jubilation when all on earth with love are filled. But this, I know, the skies will thrill with rapture, and countless throngs of human voices sing, and earth to heaven will answer: 'At last the savior of the world is King!'

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*HYMN #312 Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise LLANFAIR

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Ascension Chaconne (1649) Louis Couperin

Leading Today's Worship Service:

Preaching: Rev. Jett McReynolds

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sara Keeling, Rev. Stephanie Bekhor

Liturgist: Sara Scarlett McDonnell

Organist/Choirmaster: Jonathan Saint-Thomas

Children's Sharing: Linnea Carlson

Acolytes: Sophia Glandon, Sam Meek

Join us for a dessert reception for Pastor Jett in the Gathering Space.

Register your attendance using the QR code below or by using the attendance card located in the pew rack.



Congregational Prayers

Healing and Sympathy:

~For Eric Myers and his family, as they grieve the death of his mother on May 2.

~For Donald Laughlin, cousin of Jaydee Hanson, who has cancer and manages the Angus farm that has been in his family for 5 generations in Missouri.

For those battling cancer and long-term illness: Heather Weir, Karen Watkins, Elizabeth Carnahan, Jason Micheli, Sally, Christine, Yarikza, Kate Heavner, Peter Joyce, Cindy, Tom Benson, Kay Lewis, Justin, Dena, Mary Hays, Susan Newton, Thomas Greving, Sue Mink, Chi Bahn, Michael Milano, Carole Shakkour, Bob O., Barb H, Vivian, Chris, Fran T, Bonnie Hahn.

Prayers for the World:

~For thousands of Social Security receiving widows and widowers who were underpaid Social Security benefits after a mistake by the Social Security Administration, costing surviving spouses more than \$50 million combined, according to a new federal watchdog report.

~For peace between the US and Iran.

~For peace between Russia and Ukraine.

~For peace and an end to wars around the world as the United Methodist Church celebrates Peace with Justice Sunday.

To submit a prayer concern go to our website mountolivetumc.com/prayers or use the back of the attendance card.

* * *

Please stand, as able, for those acts of worship marked with an asterisk.*

Words in bold type indicate a congregational response.

Announcements

Senior Sunday

On Sunday, June 7, we will honor our High School graduating seniors in both worship services. Please contact Evan at ehannah@mtolivet-umc.org if you plan to attend.

Discover Mount Olivet

You don't have to rush the journey. Discover Mount Olivet offers space to learn, ask questions, and explore how God might be calling you deeper into the life of this church. Two May-June Zoom classes will be scheduled at times convenient for participants. Sign up at the link on our website, and a member of the Witness and Welcome team will contact you to arrange your participation. Questions contact Monte Campbell at montecampbell@earthlink.net.

Youth News

Today, May 17, we will have Youth Sunday School from 10:15-11:15 AM and Youth Gathering from 5-8 PM in the Youth Area. Grades 6-9 activity from 5-6 PM, dinner from 6-7 PM and grades 10-12 activity from 7-8 PM.

Love Gift for Pastor Jett

On May 11, our intern, Rev. Jett McReynolds graduated from Wesley Seminary. Jett has been with us for three years using his gifts to impact the life of the church in many ways including: the choir, preaching, young adults and the youth.

Jett has already been appointed and begun at a two-point charge (two churches) in Chilhowie Virginia, a part of the Holston Conference. His last Sunday with us is today, May 17 and he will be preaching. We are having a potluck dessert reception between services.

You are invited to contribute to a love gift for Jett. Donations can be made online at our giving link or by using the offering envelope in the pew rack (for either, please designate Jett Love Gift). Thanks!

Find additional announcements and more on our website mountolivetumc.com or subscribe to our weekly e-news.



May 17, 2026, 9:15 am

Welcome to Mount Olivet! Today we are celebrating the Ascension of Jesus, the day Jesus returns to heaven. We are also honoring our intern Jett McReynolds as he completes his three-year internship at Mount Olivet.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Ubi Caritas et amor (Where Charity and Love is, God is there)
(Dedicated to the memory of Christa Green) Norah Duncan IV

INTROIT

Ride On, Ride On In Majesty Howard Helvey

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and worship, people of God!

Let's celebrate with songs of praise!

For our God—the Most High—is seated on his holy throne,

Sovereign over all the earth!

Let's worship God together.

*HYMN #154 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (vv. 1,2,4,5)
CORONATION

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.