

May 22, 2022



First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh

Visible Wounds

This Sunday, as we celebrate Jesus' Ascension, we get to sing one of my favorite hymns, "Crown Him with Many Crowns." The third verse goes:

*Crown him the Lord of love, behold his hands and side, rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified;
no angels in the sky can fully bear that sight, but downward bend their burning eyes at mysteries so bright.*

The risen, flesh and blood Jesus was taken to heaven with his wounds still visible in his hands, feet, and side.

And his wounds are still visible in heaven.

It's an incredible claim. I get emotional every time I think about it.

When Jesus was raised from the dead his wounds were the proof that it was really him and not somebody else.

Now Jesus is in the heavenly dimension. He's glorified, and humanity is glorified with him.

Meaning *us* and *our* wounds.

Jesus takes all the things we suffer in this life, the hurts, the scars, visible and invisible, and transforms them from hurt into glory.

I don't know why there is so much hurt and suffering in the world. Most of it is due to human sin, rejection of God. But in becoming one of us, suffering with us and for us, it has to mean Jesus cares. It has to mean our wounds matter to God.

That's why he was taken up for us, wounds and all.

Do you know any retired hockey players? Have you seen them up close? I'm pretty sure they wear their scars and their false teeth as a badge of honor.

The scars say "I did this. I had a full life. I really lived the life of a hockey player."

If a hockey player's wounds are a badge of honor, what do you think God can do with our wounds?

The wounds we suffer in this life become a source of glory in the next.

The things we're tempted to cover up in this life become a source of beauty in the next.

Believers don't suffer in vain.

Jesus glorifies our wounds, and because of the Ascension, one day our joy will be infinitely greater for the wounds we suffer here.

Tom



WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:45 am

We Gather Around the Word

Prelude: *"Nun freut euch, lieben Christen g'mein, BWV 734"*
J.S Bach

Ryan Croyle, *Organ*

"Fanfare: Gopsal"
David Willcocks

Time of Welcome

Rev. Tom Hall, *Senior Pastor*

***Responsive Call to Worship**

Rev. Dan Turis, *Associate Pastor*

Leader: The Lord has ascended to the highest of places.

People: He sits on the throne of the universe.

Leader: We live our lives before the Lord seated on the throne.

People: The enthroned king is still intimate in our lives.

Leader: The one seated on high has the universe as his footstool.

All: May we worship the King Jesus with every breath we take.

***Hymn #223:** *"Crown Him with Many Crowns"* (located in this bulletin)

Unison Prayer of Confession

Dear Lord, Jesus. We have sinned against your kingdom. We have sinned against your throne. We deserve to be shunned from your kingdom. We have not looked to your leadership. We have not let you guide our lives. We have taken authority in our lives away from you Lord. We have rejected your advocacy into our lives. Lord, please forgive us. Make our amen perfect so that our souls can magnify you Lord. Forgive our sins so that we can be restored as your loyal subjects. *Amen.*

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

We Listen for the Word

Children's Message

Rev. Dan Turis

(Children of ages preschool – 1st grade are invited to attend Children's Worship on the 3rd floor balcony at this time. Children are to be picked up immediately after service in the chapel behind the high pulpit.)

***Hymn: "See Our King Ascend to Heaven"**

Tune: Nettleton

Text: Benjamin P. Snoek

1. See our King ascend to heaven,
past the planets, toward the stars.
Radiant the air around him,
honor his and glory ours.
Clouds surround him, angels greet him
with triumphant, joyous burst.
Into heaven we can enter,
for our Jesus walked there first.

2. Jesus' mission, it is finished!
Satan's grip Christ has released.
But his work beyond continues,
called upward to be our priest.
First he rose up from the darkness;
now he rises past the sun
from the world which he created.
See him enter realms above.

3. Up we gaze to his traject'ry
waiting for his next descent,
but we hear the voice of many
sent from heaven to proclaim:
"Jesus, taken into heaven,
will come back this very way."
Now embrace his promised power
'til that wond'rous coming day.

4. Things above we set our vision,
looking past the everyday.
Christ in glory, high and mighty
over all the cosmos reigns.
As he passes o'er the bound'ry
earth and heav'n blur their lines.
Body absent, Spirit present,
humble us, our lives entwine.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²²And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon - "Head of Everything"

Rev. Tom Hall

We Respond to the Word

Pastoral Prayer 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; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

*Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

Call for the Offering

Camilla Helenkamp, *Student Pastor*



Online giving available through Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement

Anthem: “Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace”

arr. Russell Robinson

Chorus: *Lord, make me an instrument,
O my Lord, make man instrument of thy peace.*

*Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
And where there is injury pardon.
Where there is doubt, sow faith,
Where there is despair, let me sow hope. (Chorus)*

*Where there is darkness, let me sow light,
Where there is sadness joy!
Grant that I may not so much seek,
To be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love,
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life!
(Chorus)*

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise him above, ye heav’nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication

Camilla Helenkamp

We Follow the Word into the World

Officer Ordination and Installation

Rev. Tom Hall

*Hymn #209: “Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise” (located in this bulletin)

*Invitation and Charge

*Benediction

Postlude

Badyn Woodford, *Organ*

*Please stand as you are able

Crown Him with Many Crowns

D Bm G D A7/E D A

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne; Hark!
 2 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri-umphed o'er the grave, who
 3 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side, rich
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time, cre -

D Bm E A Esus E A

how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own;
 rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save;
 wounds, yet vi - si - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied;
 a - tor of the rol - ling spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

D G B7 E A

a - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee
 his glo - ries now we sing who died and reigns on high,
 no an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! for thou hast died for me;

A7 D G Em7 D G Asus A7 D

and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 who died e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 but down-ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

F Dm F C Am F Csus C F

1 Hail the day that sees him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 There for him high tri - umph waits; Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 High - est heaven its Lord re - ceives; Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Still for us he in - ter - cedes; Al - le - lu - ia!
 5 There we shall with you re - main, Al - le - lu - ia!

F C Am F Csus C F

to his throne be - yond the skies. Al - le - lu - ia!
 lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates. Al - le - lu - ia!
 > yet he loves the earth he leaves. Al - le - lu - ia!
 his a - ton - ing death he pleads, Al - le - lu - ia!
 part - ners of your end - less reign, Al - le - lu - ia!

F Bb C F G7 C

Christ, the Lamb for sin - ners given, Al - le - lu - ia!
 He has con - quered death and sin; Al - le - lu - ia!
 > Though re - turn - ing to his throne, Al - le - lu - ia!
 near him - self pre - pares our place, Al - le - lu - ia!
 see you with un - cloud - ed view, Al - le - lu - ia!

F Dm F C Am F Csus C F

en - ters now the high - est heaven. Al - le - lu - ia!
 take the King of glo - ry in. Al - le - lu - ia!
 > still he calls us all his own. Al - le - lu - ia!
 he the first fruits of our race. Al - le - lu - ia!
 find our heaven of heavens in you. Al - le - lu - ia!

Ongoing/Upcoming Opportunities . . .

Pipe Organ Performance After Worship!

Stick around after worship as organist **Badyn Woodford** will present a 30-minute recital on our pipe organ! He presented a similar concert just before the pandemic hit in 2020 and is back to commemorate his forthcoming high school graduation with this special performance.

Blessings and Godspeed, Camilla!

This Sunday marks the last time that our Student Pastor, **Camilla Helenkamp**, will be serving with us. Camilla has successfully completed all the requirements of Field Education at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Over the course of the next academic year she will complete the remaining classes for her Master of Divinity Degree. Camilla said that she would be “forever grateful” for the care the congregation showed her during her experience: “I am simply in awe at the dedication and care that this congregation and leadership take to embody the hands and feet of Christ in the earth.” Thank you, Camilla! We pray that God will continue to use you in mighty ways!

Sustainable Solutions for Sacred Sites - May 23 and 24

Our friends at Partners for Sacred Places will be here at First Church on **May 23 and 24**, 1 pm to 5 pm each day, to conduct training in “**Sustainable Solutions for Sacred Sites.**” They want to create a cohort of churches in Pittsburgh who use the Partners model of building up the church by engaging the community. This is some of the same training that they provided after we won the grant from the National Fund. It’s also related to the asset mapping that they did with us last November. We hope that you can join us for this important event!

Foster Care Ministry Upcoming Event – Pirate’s Game June 22 at 7 pm!

In partnership with Foster Care programs in Pittsburgh, First Presbyterian is developing a mentorship program to help support foster children and families. We have a Pirate’s game event coming up on June 22 and hope you can join us in support of this ministry! If you are interested in becoming a mentor, attending the event, or have questions, please contact Rev. Dan Turis at dturis@fpcp.org or (412) 471-3436. We hope you can be a part of this new opportunity!

Camp Sunday – June 12

It’s that time again! We will commission the Ligonier Camp and Conference Center staff and celebrate our oldest ministry with our annual picnic. **Join us on June 12 for a picnic luncheon after worship.** Tickets will be on sale May 22 through June 5. Cost: **Adults - \$10, Children under 12 - \$5, family of 4 or more - \$25.** They can be purchased in the Chapel after church for the next three Sundays!

Food Bank Items of the Month

The FPCP Walk-In Ministry (Food Bank) is an important and easy way to get involved with our church community. You can help by donating **boxes of cereal** (*preferably Cheerios or Fruit Loops - - off brands are fine*) or cans of men’s **shaving cream** (*preferably Barbasol*) for our Walk-In Ministry. Please bring your donation to the church office or pass it on to a custodian on Sunday. (*Our next Walk-In week begins June 13*). **The Walk-In Ministry is also always in need of volunteers.** Please contact the church office or cswartz@fpcp.org to get involved!

A Note about This Morning’s Music - - by Ryan Croyle

This week is Ascension Sunday, which marks the end of the Easter season this year, so much of our music this morning revolves around that theme. Our preludes this morning are Nun freut euch, lieben Christen g'mein (Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice) by J.S. Bach (1685-1750) and Fanfare on "Gopsal" (a chorus by G.F. Handel) by David Willcocks (1919-2015). Our hymns all revolve around the Ascension theme, including a new text on a familiar tune for our middle hymn "See Our King Ascend to Heaven." You'll hopefully recognize the tune *Nettleton* to which we often sing *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*. Our postlude will be offered by Badyn Woodford, and I hope you'll stick around after the service for his recital (see "Upcoming Events" for more information).

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Church Office hours are Monday – Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, 412-471-3436, www.fpcp.org.

Need Validated Parking?

Sundays only, get your parking ticket stamped at the FPCP Welcome Center in the Narthex (front lobby). See the person in the payment booth at Mellon Square, Oliver Avenue or Smithfield Street garage to pay \$1 for parking.