

**May 4, 2008**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

*Ascension means a  
God-like view of things,  
Rising above our usual  
Limitations.  
Rise, then, and know  
The glory of life  
Set free from fear.*

Ann Lewin, *Flashes of Brightness*

Gathering to Celebrate Christ's Resurrection

GATHERING

"This Is the Day"

PRELUDE

"Morning Song"

Henry Kihlken

OPENING PRAYER

*Seasons of the Spirit*

As we worship together, O God, may we live together.

**As we live together, O God, may we witness together.**

As we witness together, O God, may we journey together.

**As we journey together, O God, may we meet together.**

As we meet together, O God, may we worship together.

**And may our worship be in you, O God, as you are in us. Amen.**

\*SINGING

"Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise"

No. 312

\*CONFESSING WHO WE ARE

*Seasons of the Spirit*

Much time is wasted staring at the sky, longing for something miraculous to happen, waiting for God to step out of heaven, and make everything right.

**But the messengers of God say, "Why are you wasting time looking at the sky?"**

**Instead live out your hope in the world as God's people.**

Much time is wasted staring at political leaders, expecting a snap of the fingers, waiting for a dictate, a law, an idea, that will solve the problems of the world.

**The messengers of God say, "Why are you wasting time looking somewhere else?"**

**Instead live out God's justice in the world as God's people.**

Much time is wasted staring at dogmas, searching for answers and meaning, softening the cross, easing the way of love, to make life better, and the world richer. **The messengers of God say, "Why are you wasting time looking at religion?" Instead live out your faith in the world as God's people. May we live in unity, and with your forgiving grace, listen to each other's experiences, and renew our call to love.**

\*SILENT PRAYER

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus' prayer for us is that in His name we may be one.

Go, forgiven, in unity with each other, blessed by God's own Son.

\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CHILDREN'S TIME

Listening Expectantly

FIRST LESSON

Acts 1: 1-14

RECEIVING PRAYER REQUESTS AND SINGING

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.**

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Alleluia!**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 trespasses 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.**

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 24: 44-53

\*SINGING

"Jesus, Name Above All Names"

FWS No. 2071 (sing twice)

MESSAGE

"Power to Resist and Witness"

\*All who are able, please stand.

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM            “Gifts of Bread and Wine”            Adult Choir

\*DOXOLOGY            “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”            No. 94

**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!**

Celebrating The Lord's Supper

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

SHARING CHRIST'S BREAD AND CUP

*United Methodists practice open communion. Any and all who desire are invited to partake of the Sacrament. As the ushers direct, please come down the aisle nearest you, find a place at the altar rail and kneel (or stand). After receiving communion the pastor will speak a word and you may return to your seat using the same aisle you came down. Elements are grape juice and pita bread, along with rice cakes for those with wheat allergies.*

\*SINGING            “Christ is Risen”            No. 307

\*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE            “Festal March”            George F. Handel

LITURGIST: Marge Hiles

Come join us for coffee and fellowship after Worship!

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

604 Seven Mile Road            Hope, Rhode Island 02831



**Ascension Sunday**

Phone: (401) 821-8217

Fax: (401) 826-7787

E-mail: [office@sovumc.org](mailto:office@sovumc.org)

Website: [www.sovumc.org](http://www.sovumc.org)

Ministers, All the People

Rev. Edward Farrell-Starbuck, Pastor

Susan Markham, Music Director

Donna Faria, Mark Lyman and Chris Taylor, Lay Leaders

Worship and Sunday School at 9:30 AM

Pamela Etheridge, Church Secretary

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON

*We hope you'll want to take your Bulletins home, but if not please remember to put them in the recycle bin.*