

The image features a sunset over a horizon. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the sun. A large, white, curved arc, resembling a stylized 'C' or a partial circle, is positioned on the left side of the image, extending from the top to the bottom. The sun is a bright, glowing orb on the horizon, with several white, radiating lines below it, suggesting rays of light or a stylized sunburst. The overall composition is serene and evocative.

*Spirit of*  
WITNESS

Sunday, May 24, 2020

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## Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

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### Purpose Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ strives to be an inclusive community embracing: spiritual nourishment, open—minded inquiry, courageous action, and interfaith partnerships to fulfill God’s calling to create a just world for all.

### Congregational Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ, with God’s grace, seeks to be a congregation that includes all persons, regardless of race, ethnic, or socio—economic background while respecting differences of gender, marital status, age, sexual orientation, and mental and physical ability. We aspire to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. We invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our open and affirming congregation.

## PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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John Nourse, *Pastor Emeritus*

# Welcome

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**Thank you for joining us this morning.** Please let us know you are here by commenting in the chat.

**Welcome Children.** We invite children to full participation in worship.

**Bell Rung During Lord's Prayer.** A tradition begun when farmers working in surrounding fields would stop their work and join in prayer.

**Subscribe to our email lists:** Text your email address to 22828 or sign up at [www.parkwayucc.org](http://www.parkwayucc.org)

**Communications Requests:** Please use the form at [www.parkwayucc.org/communications](http://www.parkwayucc.org/communications) for all announcements for the bulletin/eNews/website/social media/etc. Bulletin and eNews communications request deadline is noon Tuesday. Bulletin announcements will generally be run for three weeks prior to the event. However, all announcements will be posted via our various publications as fits in our communications strategy and as resources permit.

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## Anniversaries

- 5/24 KRAUSE, Ashley & Matthew (5)
- 5/25 SPERRY, Brenda & Doug (18)
- 5/28 HOGARTY, Kevin & Rosanna (31)
- 5/30 LOWENTHAL, Andrew & Sharon (39)

## Birthdays

- 5/29 MCKENZIE, Thomas
- 5/30 KR PAN, Maggie

# Ascension Sunday

May 24, 2020 | 9:55am

**Welcome & Piano Meditation** *Breath of God*—Neil Staan

**Announcements** Let us know you are here!

## Passing the Peace of Christ

“May peace of Christ be with you.”

(We are intentional about bringing more peace into the world.)

## Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

## Gathering Songs

*Woke Up This Morning*

**Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus** (3x)

**Hallelu (Hal-le), Hallelu (Hal-le), Hallelujah!**

**Singing and Praying with my mind stayed on Jesus** (3x)

**Hallelu (Hal-le), Hallelu (Hal-le), Hallelujah!**

*Come, Now is the Time to Worship*

**Come, now is the time to worship**

**Come, now is the time to give your heart.**

**Come, just as you are to worship**

**Come, just as you are before your God, come!**

**One day ev'ry tongue will confess You are God;**

**One day ev'ry knee will bow**

**Still, the greatest treasure remains**

**For those who gladly choose You now.**

**Come, now is the time to worship**

**Come, now is the time to give your heart.**

**Come, just as you are to worship**

**Come, just as you are before your God, come! Come! Come! Come!**

*Glorify Your Name*

**O, God, we love You, we worship and adore You**

Refrain: **Glorify Your name in all the earth**

**Glorify Your name, glorify Your name**

**Glorify Your name in all the earth!**

**Jesus, we love You, we worship and adore You...** Refrain

**Spirit we love You, we worship and adore You...** Refrain

*We Rejoice in the Grace of God!*

**We rejoice in the grace of God - poured upon our lives;**

**Loving kindness has come to us - because of Jesus Christ!**

**We rejoice in the grace of God - our hearts overflow**

**What a joy to know the grace of God!**

*How Majestic Is Your Name*

**O Lord, our Lord, How majestic is your name in all the earth  
O Lord, our Lord, How majestic is your name in all the earth  
O Lord we praise your name, O Lord we magnify your name  
Prince of Peace, Mighty God, O Lord Almighty.**

**Scripture** Acts 1:1-11 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Theophilus, the first scroll I wrote concerned everything Jesus did and taught from the beginning, right up to the day when he was taken up into heaven. Before he was taken up, working in the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus instructed the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed them that he was alive with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days, speaking to them about God’s kingdom. While they were eating together, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what God had promised. He said, “This is what you heard from me: John baptized with water, but in only a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, “Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?”

Jesus replied, “It isn’t for you to know the times or seasons that God has set by God’s own authority. Rather, 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 end of the earth.”

After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. They said, “Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven.”

**Call to Worship** John Ylvisaker

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| One:  | God has always been with us. In fact, God says—   |
| Many: | <b>“I was there to hear your borning cry, I’ll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.”</b>   |
| One:  | God is there when we are young—   |
| Many: | <b>“I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well; In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.”</b> |
| One:  | God is with us in the middle of it all—   |
| Many: | <b>“In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young, I’ll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I’ve begun.”</b> |
| One:  | God is with us as things wind down—   |

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>Many:</b> | <b>“When the evening gently closes in, and you shut your weary eyes, I’ll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.”</b>    |
| <b>One:</b>  | God was, is and will be with us—  |
| <b>Many:</b> | <b>“I was there to hear your borning cry, I’ll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.”</b> |
| <b>All:</b>  | <b>Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.</b>  |

### **Song** *I’ve Got Peace Like a River*

**I’ve got peace like a river, I’ve got peace like a river  
I’ve got peace like a river, In-a my soul. (Repeat)**

**I’ve got joy like a fountain...  
I’ve got love like the ocean...**

### **Opening Prayer** *Alena Satin*

**O, breath of God, come lift these bones. O, breath of God, come make me whole. Fill all my days with Your embrace. O, breath of God, come fill my soul.**

**O, breath of God, come fill the world. A world that’s torn in endless strife. Come, bring us peace, come bring us hope. O, breath of God, oh breath of Life.**

**Come be a lamp unto my feet. Come and be my light, be my guide. Though the journey’s hard, I will be strong with You here beside my side.**

**O, breath of God, come fill my heart. O, breath of God, come sail me home. O let me soar through skies above. In loving You, I have found love.**

**Come fill my heart. Come fill my soul. O, breath of God, You’ve made me whole. Amen.**

### **Response** *Spirit of the Living God*

**Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me;  
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!  
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.**

### **Children’s Time** *Children and Youth are invited to Zoom classrooms.*

### **Blessing the Children** *Go, My Children*

**Go, my children, with my blessing, Never alone;  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, You are my own;  
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever  
Go, my children, with my blessing,  
You are my own.**

## **Scripture** Luke 24:44-53 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

Then Jesus said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what God promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

## **Moment of Silent Reflection**

### **Sermon** *Promising Platform*

### **A Time of Prayer** *Lord, Listen to Your Children*

**Lord, listen to your children praying**

**Lord, send your Spirit in this place;**

**Lord, listen to your children praying**

**Send us love, send us power, send us grace**

(Please hum the second time through.)

## **Pastoral Prayer**

### **Response** *Lay Your Burdens Down*—Len Astian

## **Prayers of the People**

### **Lord’s Prayer** sung to the tune composed by Nate Stout

**Our [Creator/Mother/Father/Holy One] 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; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

[A variety of names for God are welcome here—including in the Lord’s Prayer.]

## **Invitation to Offering**

### **Offertory Interlude** *You Are My Hiding Place*

You are my hiding place.

You always fill my heart with songs of deliverance.

Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You... I will trust in You.

Let the weak say “I am strong in the strength of the Lord.”

I will trust in You.

## Gathering Unique Gifts into a Bouquet

### **Response** *Give Thanks*

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks, because God's given Jesus Christ, the Son!

And now, let the weak say "I am strong,"

Let the poor say "I am rich"

Because of what the Lord has done for us...

Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks.

### **Prayer of Dedication** Gary Ault

Holy One, all that we have, and all that we offer, comes from our hearts—both frightened and free. Take what we bring now and give what we need, all done in Jesus' name.

Some would rely on their power. Others put trust in their gold.

Some align closely with you—Your faithfulness never grows old.

Sometimes the road may be lonesome. Often we may lose our way. And so we take courage and always remember—love isn't just for a day.

Sometimes when troubles are many, life can seem empty, it's true. But we look at the life of Jesus and see how Your love will get us through. Amen.

## **Benediction**

### **God's Light Goes Forth**

#### **Song of Parting** *Siyahamba/We Are Marching in the Light of God*

**Siyahamba, ekukanyen' kwenkos'...**

**We are marching in the light of God**

**We are marching in the light of God**

**We are marching, we are marching, ooh**

**We are marching in the light of God**

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## **Fellowship Time!**

A chance to hang out together after worship. An idea from a UCC congregation in Martha's Vineyard, we will put a PUCG twist on it. Bring a cup of coffee, tea or lemonade and visit with us!

Join with video via this link or go to zoom.us and enter ID/psswd

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89386286019?pwd=N0gyS05iTXk5SHhaVDdwZnZEVCS4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 893 8628 6019

Password: 590711



# Announcements

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## Tuesday Evening Dialogue

Tuesday, May 26 | 7:00pm | via ZOOM

The TED group will be finishing up the book “Britt-Marie Was Here” by Fredrik Backman on Tuesday May 26 at 7 pm via Zoom. You are most welcome to join in the group discussion. Please email Helen Race at raceh@att.net or call 314-401-4382 if you’d like to participate in the Zoom call.



## MAD Camp Goes to the Circus ONLINE

Monday, July 27-Thursday, July 31

Recent St Louis County orders have prohibited summer camps this year. But you don't have to miss out! Instead of our onsite camp, we are offering an online camp. Details and times coming soon. This will be free. However we

encourage a donation to The Evangelical Children's Home.

*Stay tuned because a Circus is coming to Parkway!*

## St Louis Metro Area Crop Walk 2020

Sunday, October 25

Please visit [www.crophungerwalk.org/saintlouismo](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/saintlouismo) for all details. We hope to be walking in person as a group, but it may be a virtual walk. When you go to the website, enter the name of our walk, Parkway UCC and it will take you to our donation page. The need for food is HUGE this year, both locally and internationally, so we are accepting donations now so the monies can be distributed immediately. Thanks for all you do, Parkway. Your Crop Walk Team, Sue Moellering, Gerry and Mike Rogers, and Pamela Manning.

## To my church family...

One is still not feeling all that great when they come home from the hospital with pneumonia. However, soon after the caring folks at Parkway reached out to wish me well. Each day as the notes, cards, calls and even flowers arrived I felt better and better! I am grateful beyond words for your concern and thoughtfulness. There is only one Parkway UCC, and I am fortunate to be a part of that congregation of friends.

~Marilyn McDougal

# Prayer List

as of Wednesday, May 20

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## Celebrations

**Graduates of all kinds!**

**All the acts of kindness that are happening near and far!**

**Ramadan Mubarak to our Muslim family and friends!**

## Concerns

**Carol Wilbois and family** - as they grieve and give thanks for Ron who died at home on Thursday, May 14.\*

**Georgia Herpel** - receiving hospice care at the end of life at *Cedarhurst Karen Boyd* - home from Rehab Ctr since the weekend.

**Rosanna and Kevin Hogarty** - as her mother lives with Covid-19 and as they await their first grandchild's birth this month.

**Healthcare workers, homeless** and many others at risk right now.

**Social Distancing...** if anyone needs groceries, medicine and/or other support, please reach out to [kevin@parkwayucc.org](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org); 314-330-0629

**People who are struggling with their mental health.**

**E-Learning** for students, educators and parents as the year wraps up.

**People who aren't feeling safe at home** but are remaining there.

**Individuals in all levels of leadership** as they make decisions today.

**Deadly violence in the maternity clinic** in Kabul, Afghanistan.

## Continuing

**Cherie Stolze** - ongoing health issues; navigating medications/fatigue.

**Randal Barnes** - receiving hospice care (Steve's brother).

**Bren Ratuno** - severely burned in an accident at her home (McKenzie).

**Rod and Linda** - his bone cancer treatments and broken bones; her grief over her father who died from COVID-19 (Tarr).

**Lori Connors** - for strength, stamina through some health challenges.

**Ruth Peace & Pinky Wilcoxon** - PUCC sisters with health challenges.

**Bill Darland** - ongoing health issues.

**Sister Mary Kay McKenzie** - for health/wholeness (Tom's sister).

**Ken and Rose** - as they await nursing home placement for him (Peace).

**Nelson Spencer** - chemotherapy treatments (Svenson).

**Chuck Miller** and family - as he lives with cancer (William Tharp).

**Alan Nichols** - treatments for multiple myeloma; less pain (Pleis).

**Tina** - undergoing tests for cancer; crafting a treatment plan (Scharf).

**Anthony** - multiple challenges as he lives his post-incarceration life.

**Martha** - receiving treatment for leukemia (sister of Mary Lynn Dario).

**Gary** - risky behaviors; seeking balance and stability (McKenzie).

**Grateful Tran** - in prison; struggles w/schizophrenia (Evelyn Burette)

**Bob** - still struggling with Parkinson's (McKenzie).

**Christopher, Gail & Bill Haack** - chronic health challenges.

**The extended Eggebrecht Family** - healing and wholeness.

**The United Methodist Church** and our LGBTQIA siblings there.

## Pregnancy

**Rosanna & Kevin Hogarty** will be first time grandparents any day!  
**Laura & Phil Waite...** pending big brothers Henry, Oscar and Felix.

## Home/Care Facility/Rehab Center

**Millicent Guerri** - living with cancer... 14300 Conway Meadows Ct E,  
Chesterfield, MO 63017 [birthdate: December 5]

**Georgia Herpel** - *Cedarhurst*: 12826 Daylight Cir, St. Louis, MO 63131

**Marv Herpel** - *Brookdale West County*; 785 Henry Ave, #217;

Ballwin, MO 63021; 636-227-5838 [birthdate: March 3]

**Ruth Murray** - *Villages of St Peters Memory Care*:

5300 Executive Centre Pkwy, #107; St. Peters, MO 63376; 636-477-6955.

[birthdate: September 11] Best times to visit – before 11am or after 2pm.

**Pearl Sellenriek** - *Friendship Village Care Center*; #725-2

15201 Olive Blvd, Chesterfield, MO 63017 [birthdate: March 31]

**Dwight Smith** - *Manor Grove*; 711 S Kirkwood Rd; Kirkwood, MO 63122;

314-965-0864 [birthdate: September 6]

**Ellen Surber** - *Delmar Gardens*: 14855 N Outer 40 Road, #508;

Chesterfield, MO 63017 (Lisa Davidson's mom) [birthdate: November 3]

**Sue Houser** - *Bethany Ctr for Rehab & Healing*; 421 Ocala Dr - #209B;

Nashville, TN 37211; 615-577-2049. [birthdate: July 8]

## Other

**Dan Connors** - completed writing a novel... taking next steps.

**President Trump, Congress**, all local, national, world leaders.

**The “me too” Movement** - shining a light on sexual abuse.

**Healing of relationships between police and the public.**

**All people who live with mental illness.**

**PUCC Family** (and others) struggling with healthcare costs and limits.

**Our Missouri Mid-South Conference and St Louis Assn UCC**

**Variety of Parkway members/friends** - employment issues.

**Victims of Natural and Created Disasters** around the world.

**Peace and Justice** near and far.

**US Military** around the globe.

## St Louis Assn UCC Covenant Partner

Week ending May 24 - **Hope UCC**, St Louis; hopeuccstl.org

Week ending May 31 - **UP** (*Unleashing Potential*)... formerly Neighborhood

Houses ... upstl.org

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# SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 24, 2020

John 17:1-11

## Spirit of Witness

This is Memorial Day weekend. You may remember that Memorial Day began as a day called Decoration Day. On Decoration Day, in decades and centuries past, beginning officially with the civil war, but probably going much further back than that, the graves of soldiers who'd perished in combat were covered in wreaths and flowers by their loved ones.

Our God is with us when we mourn, and it is God who places within each of us the resurrection hope that we so need. God did not steal the lives of those soldiers who perished in battle. But God placed within each of us, all of us, the desire to respond to loss with life and love. It is maybe the most remarkable aspect of our humanity that we have the ability to look tragedy in the face and say, "No. You, death, you loss, do not have the last word." And so we decorate graves with blossoms.

"In St. Louis, the pastor of Pilgrim Congregational Church, the Rev. Truman Douglass, had started a Bible Study where he and other men spent their time studying Christian Unity. Rev. Douglass invited a friend of his, the Dean of Eden Seminary, Rev. Dr. S.D. Press. Douglass was a Congregational Christian, Press a leader in the Evangelical and Reform Church, but in the parlor of Pilgrim Congregational, they began to see themselves simply as Christians committed to the unity of Christ's body.

In the midst of a society committed to division -- hardening divisions between the races, growing divisions between generations, and deep distrust between denominations -- they began to imagine a path toward greater Christian unity. It was out of these Bible studies that Dr. Press and Rev. Douglass began to dream of the United Church of Christ. And it was because of their dedication and commitment to Christian unity that the denomination we know and love as the United Church of Christ was formed in 1957."\*

On this Decoration Day, we remember all who have died in wartime. And on this Decoration Day, we give thanks for the United Church of Christ, a flower that grew from the graves of tragedy, a blossom that signaled "no" to violence, division and death.

\*Connelly, Rev. Tyler. "Dream Christ's Dream: Sermon by Rev. Tyler Connelly for the Central Pacific Conference Annual Gathering 2019." [https://gallery.mailchimp.com/c1fab9f89ecab71f0d3f77c3/files/16ed7c36-26bc-4d2d-a4ea-806392ccc783/SERMON\\_Dream\\_Christ's\\_Dream\\_Tyler\\_Connoley\\_2019\\_09\\_29.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/c1fab9f89ecab71f0d3f77c3/files/16ed7c36-26bc-4d2d-a4ea-806392ccc783/SERMON_Dream_Christ's_Dream_Tyler_Connoley_2019_09_29.pdf). Accessed 10/29/19.

