



**WEST BRIDGEWATER**  
C O M M U N I T Y C H U R C H

Sunday, April 16, 2023

*Join us live on our Facebook or YouTube page beginning at 10:30 a.m.*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Opening Prayer**

**Hymn: “Across the Lands”**

*Words and music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend*

You’re the Word of God the Father from before the world began.  
Ev’ry star and ev’ry planet has been fashioned by Your hand.  
All creation holds together by the power of Your voice.  
Let the skies declare Your glory; let the land and seas rejoice!

You’re the Author of creation; You’re the Lord of ev’ry man;  
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.

Yet You left the gaze of angels, came to seek and save the lost,  
and exchanged the joy of heaven for the anguish of a cross.  
With a prayer You fed the hungry; with a word You calmed the sea;  
Yet how silently You suffered that the guilty may go free!

You’re the Author of creation; You’re the Lord of ev’ry man;  
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.

With a shout You rose victorious, wresting vict’ry from the grave,  
And ascended into heaven, leading captives in Your way.  
Now You stand before the Father, interceding for Your own;  
From each tribe and tongue and nation, You are leading sinners home!

You’re the Author of creation; You’re the Lord of ev’ry man;  
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands.

### **Hymn: “Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”**

*Words: Charles Wesley and Thomas Cotterill. Music: Robert Williams.*

Hail the day that sees Him rise, Alleluia!  
to His throne beyond the skies. Alleluia!  
Christ, the Lamb for sinners giv'n, Alleluia!  
enters now the highest heaven. Alleluia!

There for Him high triumph waits; Alleluia!  
lift your heads, eternal gates. Alleluia!  
He has conquered death and sin; Alleluia!  
take the King of glory in. Alleluia!

Highest heaven its Lord receives; Alleluia!  
yet He loves the ones He leaves. Alleluia!  
Though returning to His throne, Alleluia!  
still He calls us all His own. Alleluia!

Still for us He intercedes; Alleluia!  
His atoning death He pleads, Alleluia!  
near Himself prepares our place, Alleluia!  
He the firstfruits of our race. Alleluia!

There we shall with You remain, Alleluia!  
partners of Your endless reign, Alleluia!  
there Your face unclouded see, Alleluia!  
find our heav'n of heav'ns in Thee. Alleluia!

### **Hymn: “Before the Throne Above”**

*Words: Vikki Cook and Charitie Lees Bancroft. Music: Vikki Cook*

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea:  
a great High Priest whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart;  
I know that while in heav'n He stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart,  
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,  
upward I look and see Him there, who made an end to all my sin.  
Because the sinless Saviour died my sinful soul is counted free,  
for God the Just is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me,  
to look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb, my perfect spotless righteousness,  
the great unchangeable “I Am,” the King of glory and of grace.  
One with Himself, I cannot die; my soul is purchased with His blood.

My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God,  
with Christ, my Savior and my God.

## **Time of Prayer**

### **Sermon: “Jesus Ascended to Heaven”**

#### **Luke 24:44–53 (ESV)**

<sup>44</sup>Then he 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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup>And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup>and were continually in the temple blessing God.

#### **Matthew 28:16–20 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup>Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

#### **Acts 1:1–11 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup>And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” <sup>9</sup>And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup>and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

## Acts 2:32–36 (ESV)

<sup>32</sup>This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. <sup>33</sup>Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. <sup>34</sup>For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

“The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

<sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies your footstool.” ’

<sup>36</sup>Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

### Hymn: “Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus”

*Words: John Bakewell. Music: Traditional Dutch melody.*

Hail, Thou once despised Jesus! Hail, Thou Galilean King!  
Thou did suffer to release us; Thou did free salvation bring.  
Hail, Thou agonizing Savior, bearer of our sin and shame!  
By Thy merits we find favor; life is given through Thy Name.

Passover Lamb, by God appointed, all our sins on Thee were laid;  
by almighty love anointed, Thou have full atonement made.  
All thy people are forgiven through the virtue of Thy blood;  
opened is the gate of Heaven, reconciled is man with God.

Jesus, hail! enthroned in glory, there forever to abide;  
all the heavenly hosts adore Thee, seated at Thy Father’s side.  
There for sinners Thou art pleading; there Thou dost our place prepare;  
ever for us interceding till in glory we appear.

Worship, honor, power and blessing Thou art worthy to receive;  
loudest praises, without ceasing, right it is for us to give.  
Help, ye bright angelic spirits, bring your sweetest, noblest lays;  
help to sing our Savior’s merits, help to chant Emmanuel’s praise!

### Benediction

#### 2 Peter 3:18 (ESV)

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.