Welcome

*Call to Worship

One: We have come, O God, celebrating Your great mercies towards us, calling us into a
life of faith and trust.

Many: We give you thanks for the examples of faith, justice, and reconciliation that
have come before us.

One: Looking to Jesus, we seek to live into the fullness of our callings to be people of God,
builders of Christ’s Beloved Community.

Many: Set in our hearts, O God, the stories of those who have fought for justice--
living and dying to see the fulfillment of Your coming reign in the world.

One: For the great cloud of witnesses, those named and unnamed, we are thankful. We
gather to worship, heeding the call to press forward, laying aside that which weighs
us down, and praising the name of our risen Christ.

All: Great God, giver of life and keeper of our stories, help us to rejoice in truth--
bringing our authentic selves and the stories we hold to You, holy God, restorer
of our souls. Amen.

*Hymn: Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing (page 3)

*Affirmation of Faith

I believe in one God,
the Creator Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father:
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one essence with the Creator.
Through Christ all things were made.
Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

1. Rejoice, give thanks and sing; your Sovereign God adore!
2. Our Savior Jesus reigns, the God of truth and love;
3. Christ Jesus cannot fail to rule both earth and heaven;
4. Rejoice in glorious hope, for Christ the Judge shall come,

For Christ has robbed death’s sting and triumphs evermore. Lift
The Lamb who purged our stains is crowned with power above. Lift
The keys of death and hell are to the Savior given. Lift
And take the faithful up to their eternal home. We

up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.
up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.
up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.
soon shall hear a heavenly voice above the trumpet’s sound, “Rejoice!”

This Ascension text, one of the festival hymns by Charles Wesley, was published originally in John Wesley’s Moral and Sacred Poems (1744). Somewhat altered, it appeared in this familiar version in Charles’ 1746 collection, Hymns for Our Lord’s Resurrection.

Tune: DARWALL’S 148th 6.6.6.8.8.
John Darwall, 1770

* Please stand in body and/or spirit.
For us and for our liberation
Christ came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate of Mary, the favored one,
and became one in being with us.
For our sake he was lynched under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God.
He will come again in glory to examine the living and the dead,
and Christ’s Beloved Community will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, divine wisdom, the giver of life,
who proceeds from God, our Mother and Father,
who with the Creator and the Christ, she is worshiped and glorified,
and has spoken through the Prophets.

I believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I acknowledge the baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer

Jasmyn Graham (MDiv ‘16)

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-2 (CEB)

Vivian Jones-Johnson (MDiv ‘16)

*Confession

Reverend Dr. Sunggu Yang

All: We confess that often 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. Amen.

One: Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether; the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*Gloria Patri

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

Song
Lift Every Voice

Sermon
Kenneth Pettigrew (MDiv ’16)

*Communion
Invitation

Prayers of Thanksgiving

God be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to God

Let us give our God thanks and praise

It is right and just to give thanks and praise

For in truth, O God, it is right for us to give thanks and praise. With open hearts, we allow your praises to part our lips. We are mindful, our proximate God, of your great work of creation and your presence in all things.

[The leader leads in thankfully recalling God’s great acts of salvation and concludes:]

We join as sisters and brothers, united around tables throughout the world, proclaiming your praise, saying:

Sanctus:

Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!

[The institution of the Lord’s Supper is recalled. The leader concludes:]

After the meal, Jesus, having been betrayed by one of his own, was arrested, tried unfairly, beaten, shamed, lynched on a Roman cross, died, and was buried. For many saw this and proclaimed that his story had come to an end, but in accordance with the scriptures, he was raised from the dead. Therefore, with joy, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:
Memorial Acclamation:

**Christ has died**
**Christ is risen**
**Christ will come again.**

[The Leader continues in prayer. The Holy Spirit is invoked to bless the gifts of the Table. The Leader concludes:]

All this we ask through Jesus Christ: by him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, holy God, now and forever.

*Amen.*

**The Lord’s Prayer**

*Doxology*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts

Benediction
About the Worship Leader
Kenneth Pettigrew, a native of Winston-Salem, NC is a graduate of the UNC School of the Arts with a degree in Vocal Performance and a third-year MDiv student at Wake Forest School of Divinity. He is the Coordinator for Faith-Based Community Engagement at United Way of Forsyth County, and between meetings and classes, he maintains a blog: Sub Renovationis (Under Renovation). He is a licentiate in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and proudly serves at St. John CME Church as a worship leader and member of the ministerial team.

Worship
Today’s worship service was planned by Kenneth Pettigrew (MDiv ’16), Demi Day (MDiv ’17), and Lindsey Altvater Clifton (MDiv ’16). The altar design was created by Andria Williamson (MDiv ‘17). The bulletin was designed by Christine Hargraves (MDiv ’16).

The call to worship and communion liturgy were written by Kenneth Pettigrew. The confession comes from the Book of Ritual of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

Communion will be celebrated by intinction today. You will be given or you may receive bread and may choose to dip it in the wine or grape juice. Bread is Gluten Free and baked by Marisa Fraley (MDiv ’17). Wine and grape juice are present in both chalices. Wine is in the lesser-filled side of the chalice and is inscribed with a “W”. Grape juice is in the greater-filled side of the chalice and is inscribed with a “J.”

Worship Committee Members
For feedback, suggestions, or offers to participate in worship, please contact a member of the worship committee:

Lindsey Altvater Clifton
Anna Fleig
Christine Hargraves
Emily Hedrick

Brian Hollingsworth
Brenden Kee
Demi McCoy
Ken Pettigrew

Daniel Potter
Daniel Reese
Andria Williamson