

The UMC of New City Hybrid Worship

May 12, 2024

*Ascension Day; Mother's Day; Celebration of LGBTQ+ Inclusion; Sacrament of Holy Communion*

Welcome

Pastor Amanda

Prelude and Lighting of the Candles

Dr. Diana Hughes/Acolyte -- Gregory Hemenetz

Call to Worship (*based on Matthew 23:37*)

Leader: Like a mother hen gathering her chicks under her wing,

**People: God longs to gather us and hold us close.**

Leader: We are loved by the Almighty;

**People: We are loved by the Risen Christ!**

\*\*Hymn #318 (UMH)

*Christ Is Alive*

1. **Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. His cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. His love in death shall never die.**
2. **Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, he comes to claim the here and now and dwell in every place and time.**
3. **Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains, but daily, in the midst of life, our Savior in the Godhead reigns.**
4. **In every insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide, he suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, though ever crucified.**
5. **Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and all creation ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

Children's Message

Unison Prayer (*from re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/04/prayer-litany-for-mothers-day.html*)

**Lord, on this day set aside to honor and remember mothers, we give you thanks for our mothers. We are grateful that you chose to give us life through them, and that they received the gift of life from you, and gave it to us. Thank you for the sacrifices they made in carrying us and giving us birth. We thank you for the women who raised us, who were our mothers in childhood. Whether birth mom, adopted mom, older sister, aunt, grandmother, stepmother or someone else, we thank you for those women who held us and fed us, who cared for us and kissed away our pain. We pray that our lives may reflect the love they showed us and beyond, and that they would be pleased to be called our moms. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

*Acts 1:1-11*

Kristen Sandberg

*In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While*

staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But 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 ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Message

Rev. Dr. Amanda Hemenetz

Hymn #2238 (TFWS)

*In the Midst of New Dimensions*

1. **In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways, who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?**  
*(Refrain): God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, we your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.*
2. **Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair, who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?** *(Refrain)*
3. **As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes, grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams.** *(Refrain)*
4. **Through the years of human struggle walk a people long despised, gays and lesbians together, fighting to be realized.** *(Refrain)*
5. **We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young, each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.** *(Refrain)*
6. **Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain, may your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.** *(Refrain)*

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Prayer following Communion (unison)

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. We thank you for the gift. Strengthen us to give of ourselves for others, that all may know your love, and your kin-dom may come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

Prayer Requests and Praises

Pastoral Prayer

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 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.**

Announcements

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Dr. Diana Hughes

**\*\*Doxology #95 (UMH)**

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host -- Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Almighty God, bless these gifts, and use them to your glory, as we offer our thanks and praise for new directions, knowing that as we journey, we follow Christ. Amen.**

**\*\*Hymn #327 (UMH)**

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

- 1. Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne. Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own. Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.**
- 2. Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave, and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save. His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high, who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.**
- 3. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise. His reign shall know no end, and round his pierced feet fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.**
- 4. Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side, those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified. All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me; thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.**

**\*\*Blessing and Sending**

**\*\*Choral Benediction**

*Amazing Grace Amen*

Postlude

Dr. Diana Hughes



*Happy Mother's Day to all our moms!*

*There is no coffee hour today. Take a mom out to lunch!*

Thank you for joining us in worship today. You are always welcome here! To be added to our email list, ask questions, request pastoral care, or explore the possibility of membership, contact the church office at [umcofnewcity@gmail.com](mailto:umcofnewcity@gmail.com) or call (845) 634-1758.

Sunday School for children pre-k (potty trained) through 6th grade is held during the worship service, directly following the Children's Message.

For online giving, please visit our website at [newcityumc.org](http://newcityumc.org)

Our thrift shop, Angel's Attic, is open Saturdays 9am-2pm and Thursdays 10am-12pm.

We are a Reconciling Church; we fully love and accept LGBTQ+ individuals and families.

Our Mission Statement is "Serving God through Serving Our Community."

\*\*Indicates to please stand, if you are comfortable doing so. 'UMH' = The United Methodist Hymnal (red); 'TFWS' = The Faith We Sing (black). Both are available by the ushers.

*May you go in Christ's peace, assured of God's love.*

