

Anthon Community Methodist Church
Ascension Sunday
Lay Pastor Shirley Nelson
May 17, 2026@ 10:00 a.m.

Prelude and Lighting of Altar Candles

We Gather in God's Presence

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Song **“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”** **UMH #89**

Call to Worship **Liturgist: Erin Baird**

L: Sovereign Lord, we gather as Your people, often asking, “Lord, is this the time?” We confess that we focus on our own schedules, our own nations, and our own comfort.

P: Shift our eyes from our agendas to Your Kingdom. Remind us that the times and seasons belong to the Father alone.

L: You have promised us power—not the power of this world, but the gift of Your Holy Spirit. You have called us to be Your witnesses, starting exactly where we are and reaching to the furthest corners of the earth.

P: Holy Spirit, fall upon us. Equip us to speak Your truth in this city, in our neighborhoods, and to the ends of the earth. Do not let us stand idle, gazing at the clouds.

L: We remember the Upper Room, where men and women, family and friends, gathered in one accord. We pray for the unity of this local church. Strip away our divisions and our distractions.

P: Make us a people of prayer. Bind us together in one heart and one mind, that our life together might be a witness to Your grace.

L: We live in the hope of Your return. Until that day, may we be found faithful, busy with the work You have set before us.

P: Come, Lord Jesus. May Your Kingdom come and Your will be done through us. AMEN.

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, we come before you today, just as the disciples did, seeking your direction and your presence. We confess that like them, we often get caught up in our own timelines and “when” questions, wondering when you will fix our circumstances or restore what we

have lost. Forgive us for the times we have stood still, “gazing into the sky” and waiting for a sign, when you have already given us a commission. We thank you for the promise of the Holy Spirit. We ask now for that same power—not for our own glory, but so that we might be your witnesses. Give us the courage to speak of your love in our homes and workplaces—and the vision to carry your light to the of the earth. AMEN.

Erin Baird

“King of Kings”

We Hear God's Word

First Reading Ephesians 1:15-23

Second Reading Responsively **Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35** **UMH #792**

Hymn of Preparation **“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies ”**
UMH #173

Gospel Reading John 17:20-26

New Testament Reading Acts 1:6-11

Today's Message **“Saying Goodbye”** Kathy Hodgdon

God Calls Us to Respond

PRAYERS OF THE PASTOR AND PEOPLE (Joys and Concerns)

The Lord's Prayer

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings

***Doxology #95**

Prayer of Dedication

ALL: We ask that you take these tithes and offerings and use them to fuel your mission. May they support the work of your Church, provide for those in need, and help carry the story of your grace to places we have yet to reach. Bless the giver and the gift alike, and keep our hearts focused on the work you have called us to do until you return in glory. In the name of Jesus Christ, our ascended Lord, Amen.

Closing Hymn

“I’ll Fly Away ”

TFWS #2282

Sending Forth with Blessing
Postlude

Ministers.....EVERYONE!
Lay Pastor.....Shirley Nelson
Liturgist.....Erin Baird
Organist/Pianist.....Eileen Van Meeteren

IN THE CIRCLE OF OUR CONCERN

OUR COUNTRY, OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN, our church,
Our community leaders, our president, our farmers, Bobby Lewis,
Tom & Cindy Herrick, Ed and Carol Davis, Alta Patterson, Trisha Theisen,
Eleanore Lewis, Rick Gubbels, Lana Kropf, Tracy Lewis, Bettina Perkins,
Elwanda Sheriff, Kathy Hodgdon, Evelyn & Larry Dicks
(Becky Marshall’s parents), Jerry & Eileen Klindt, Lyle & Sally Schram,
Roger Nelson, Will Hoy, Betty Nelson, Connie Ashley, and Barb Madsen.
Remember our Nursing Home Residents!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

May 20: Delivery of Meals

May 24: Memorial Day

May Liturgists: May24, Marilyn Hladik; May 31, Duane Brandt

Weekly Birthdays and Anniversaries: Dillon Johnson (18), Lucy Maynard (19), Ron Steinhoff; Brady Gothier (20), Barb Wood (21), Jenna Petersen (22), Trace Theisen (23).

Contact Us:

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Church website: www.ARBumc.com

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