



St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

Ascension Sunday **21st May 2023**



Welcome to St Anne's today—it is great to have you with us. St Anne's is the local Church of England parish church, and we are a very diverse group of people. We hope that you will feel welcome in our worship today. If you are new, please do say hello—we would love to get to know you. If you are unsure where to find something, or about what is going on, please do ask. We will be happy to help. Our worship style is quite formal, but we hope relaxed- as we come to worship God in our midst.

All the words for the service will be on the screens at the front however, if you would prefer to have a printed copy in your hands, or a large print copy, there are hymn books and service sheets at the back.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

Today we bring our Easter Celebration to a close as Jesus ascends into heaven. Our liturgy reminds us of the joy of God who unites heaven and earth. We are also reminded that we are always watchful for Jesus' return and work in our midst.

A Priest will greet us. Please stand when the bell is rung. We sing our Processional Hymn **33 – Alleluia, sing to Jesus** as the Clergy enter.

God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

In the name of the (+) Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

The President will introduce the service.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, for forty days we have been celebrating with joyful hearts the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, his bursting from the tomb and his defeat of the power of sin and death. He appeared to his disciples many times and told them about the kingdom of God.

Today we recall how he left this earth and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers. Trusting in his reign over all creation, and submitting to his kingly yet loving rule, let us hear the story of his parting.

Opening reading for Ascension Day

In Acts, Luke reiterates the breadth of his due diligence: His first book included “all” of Jesus’ deeds and teachings from the time he began his ministry until his ascension (1:1-3). Jesus’ ascension is pivotal. It confirms that all that Jesus said and did on earth was indeed driven by God’s Spirit (cf. 5:38-39) and that the good news about the baptism of the Spirit that this same Jesus had announced to his apostles is trustworthy (1:5).

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (1.4 -11)

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.'

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Priest says

Seeing we have a great high priest who has passed through the heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us offer him the praiseworthy of his name.

We sing the Gloria

***Refrain: Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.***

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we
worship You we give You thanks, we praise You for your
glory. Refrain:**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God You take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our
prayer. Refrain:**

**For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the most high
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Refrain.**

The Collect

The Priest introduces a period of silent prayer and then says:

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that as we believe your only-begotten Son
our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens,
so we in heart and mind may also ascend
and with him continually dwell;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Liturgy of the Word (please sit)

We hear a reading from the New Testament

Ephesians proclaims the exalted position of the resurrected Jesus as evidence of God's power, the same power that is at work in the church. Like Ephesians 1:3-14, verses 15-23 are one long sentence in Greek. The subject of the sentence shifts seamlessly from thanksgiving for the faith of the Ephesian church to a prayer for their continued enlightenment (verse 16) to a confession of the authority and power God has given to Christ (verses 19-23).

The recipient church's reputation for faith does not stop the author from petitioning God that they might increase in knowledge.

A Reading from the letter to the Ephesians (Ephesians 1:15-23)

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousand served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgement, and the books were opened. I watched then because of the noise of the arrogant words that the horn was speaking. And as I watched, the beast was put to death, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*We sing our Gradual **Hymn 507 – Meekness and Majesty** during which the Gospel is processed*

The Gospel is announced.

Luke has two accounts of the Ascension, one in the gospel, one in Acts. The one in the gospel is placed at the end of Jesus' ministry (Luke 24:44-53) and its purpose seems to be the vindication of his ministry. The one in Acts is placed at the beginning of the apostles' ministry (Acts 1:6-11) and the purpose seems to be the authorization of their work of proclamation.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

(Luke 24: 44-end)

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, 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 my Father 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

The Gospel is carried back to the Altar as quiet music is played.

We sit to listen to the sermon. After the sermon silence is kept.

We stand to affirm our faith in the words of the creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the (+) resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

We kneel or sit as we prayer for the Church, the World and for this community. During the prayers we use the response:

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our Prayer.

Sometimes we will also use the words after we pray for those who have died:

Rest Eternal, Grant unto them O Lord
And may light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace
And rise in Glory

At the conclusion of the prayers we say.

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Liturgy of the Sacrament (please stand)

The Priest will introduce the peace

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the Father'. Alleluia.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you
and also with you. Alleluia!

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*We share the peace with those around us in a way we are comfortable until the offertory Hymn is announced. We sing the offertory Hymn **150 – Crown him with many crowns** during which a collection is taken.*

Blessed be God, by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Lord be with you,
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

The preface continues until we sing.
**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

After the Consecration
Great is the mystery of Faith:
**Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer we sing **Amen.**

We join in the prayer that Jesus taught his friends to say in our preferred version and language.

**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,
the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

Lord, we died with you on the cross.

Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.

Now we share in your resurrection.

Live in us, that we may live in you.

We sing the Agnus Dei.

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us**

**Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us**

**Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

The Elevation

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord (+) I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia

We receive communion, during which we listen to O Lord Arise by Thomas Weelkes. All who are baptised are welcome to receive, and you may choose if you are ready to receive the chalice. We receive God's grace in one kind or two. You may also like to come forward for a blessing.; and you may wish to light a candle.

After all have received we keep a brief silence before the president leads us in prayer.

At the end of communion the priest will lead us in a period of silence, and then a short prayer :

God our Father,

you have raised our humanity in Christ

and have fed us with the bread of heaven:

mercifully grant that,

nourished with such spiritual blessings,

we may set our hearts in the heavenly places;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples.
Amen.**

We listen to the notices about our community life.

The Dismissal *(please stand)*

We receive God's Blessing.

The Lord be with you
And also with you

May the Spirit, who set the Church on fire upon the day of Pentecost, bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ; and the blessing of God almighty, the (+) Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

We sing our final hymn 52 – At the name of Jesus verses 1, 3 and 6 during which the clergy depart.

Please do join us downstairs for refreshments and conversation.

Our Community Life Together and Dates for your Diary

Finance—St Anne's

Our current monthly target for congregational giving is **£2180**. In March we raised £1905. Thank you to everyone for your generosity!

PCC Meeting

The PCC met on Monday night. We discussed changes in the parish and management of the building. We talked a lot about finance and increasing our contribution to common fund. We need to raise more funds as a parish to meet our costs. We also considered planning for Queens Park Day, a new Parish Safeguarding Lead, and meeting needs of children on Sunday morning.

Laurence's Larder

As you know Laurence's Larder is back in full swing serving meals every Thursday and providing food bags as well. They continue to welcome Tuna but can also use **sardines and long life milk** – though any non-perishable everyday food items are great!

Vicar's Garden Party

You are all invited to join in the Vicar's Garden Party which will this year take place on Sunday 11th June from 2-5pm. Hopefully it will be a lovely sunny day!

Invitation to Special Evensong at St Paul's

Mother Christine will be installed to the Prebendal stall of Twiford on Sunday 28th May at 3pm. You are all warmly invited to attend. You do not need a ticket, but it would be helpful if you were seated in the Cathedral by 2.45pm. You need to allow time to pass through security as you enter.

What is a prebendary?

This role means you are a visiting Canon of the Cathedral Chapter of St Paul's. The Prebendary is invited to attend 2 chapter meetings each year to bring the experience/views of the parishes that the Cathedral serves. You may also be invited to preach once a year at a weekday service; or to robe for special services hosted by the Cathedral. In essence it is an honorary role.

Willesden Pilgrimage to St Paul's with Bishop Lusa

Bishop Lusa is concluding his year long Willesden Pilgrimage of Prayer with a walk, from St Mary's Willesden to St Paul's Cathedral on 23rd May, in the week of the Thy Kingdom Come Novena. He would love from people to join him for this whole 9 miles, or at any point along the way. The walk will conclude by joining Evensong in the Cathedral at 5pm

Book your places on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/475118190297>

For more details speak to Mo C.



For our prayers— All doing exams, Peter, Rhona, Floret, John, Kathleen, Josephine, Harriet, May, Neil, Tristan, Mavis, Kay, Comfort, Joyce, Jean, Peter, Pearl, John, Cecilia and Ruth. We remember those who have died recently including Hada and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time including Olga Paskins and Velma Smith.

Services during the week 21st May 2023

Tuesday	8.30 Morning Prayer in chapel and on Zoom
Thursday	8.30 Morning Prayer in chapel
Friday	8.30 Morning Prayer in chapel
Sunday 28th	9 am Morning Prayer in Chapel and Zoom
<i>Pentecost</i>	10am Sung Mass with Sunday School
	3pm Evenson at St Paul's

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