



St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

Readings and Notice Sheet **Ascension Sunday** **16th May 2021**

On the 40th day after Easter we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, which is traditionally celebrated on a Thursday. It has become common practice however to observe this Feast Day on the Sunday following. Today we commemorate the stories told of Jesus ascending to heaven, and the invitation to wait for the coming of the Spirit on the Feast of Pentecost.

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

**We meet in the name of God who is (+) Father,
Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you



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.

Our first reading— today is read at the start of our service and is the account of the Ascension of Jesus. It places our service in context. The author of Acts also wrote the third Gospel and is traditionally associated with Luke the physician (Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24), though his true identity remains unknown. Acts 1:1-11 segues the story of Jesus as told in Luke's Gospel to the story of the early church as told in Acts. It does so underscoring that transitions do not happen in a vacuum, disconnected from what came before, and that they often dispense power to a new generation.

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 Collect

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**

The New Testament reading from the letter to the Ephesians

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 (verse 15) does not stop the author from petitioning God that they might increase in knowledge. He prays that God may grant them "a spirit of wisdom and revelation" (verse 17, NRSV). This prayer does not negate the faith the community already has, but reflects a tension that runs throughout the letter, in which the church occupies an exalted state as the body of Christ even as it remains in need of instruction and growth.

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.

This the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

The Gospel reading is Luke 24: 44-end. Our Gospel reading today is Luke 24: 44 – end and is Luke’s version of Jesus Ascension into heaven. Luke’s account is more subtle than some of the others. Jesus’ disciples must have felt the earth slipping beneath their feet at the thought of being left alone. Our Gospel reading may be divided into three movements, each with a distinctive theme. **The past:** The necessity of these things (vv. 44-47); **The promise:** The call to be witnesses (vv. 48-49) and **“While You Wait”:** The call in the meantime (vv. 50-53). They might well be themes for us as well. Luke concludes his gospel with Jesus giving guidance to how his followers are to live: worshiping God, waiting on Jesus’ promises, and doing so “with great joy”. The challenge of this Feast day is for us to do the same.

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 worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the Gospel of our Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Take some time to reflect on the readings set for today – what might they be saying to you and to us as a community

Intercessions

Let us pray to the Lord who is our refuge and stronghold.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
you have exalted your Son Christ Jesus to your right hand,
and made him the head over all things for his body the Church:
hear us as we pray for the Church throughout the world,
for our Diocese of London and for Bishop's Sarah and Pete.
Make us and all your people receptive to the gifts he pours upon us,
that we may use them to your glory,
and the building up of the body of Christ.
Silence is kept.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Lord God Almighty, the Ancient of Days,
you have given your Son all authority in heaven and on earth:
hear us as we pray for the world he came to redeem,
for all places torn apart by war, disaster, and pandemic.
Grant that we may know even in this time the things that make for peace,
and may strive for the reconciliation of all people
in his kingdom of justice and love.
Silence is kept.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Creator of all, whose Son has promised to be with us always,
to the end of the age:
hear us as we pray for those among whom we live and work,
For the health and well-being of our nation,
that all who are fearful and anxious
may be at peace and free from worry:
For all who care for others, for our health services, care homes,
carers and those who work in service industries
may they have the strength they need.
Grant that we may be so aware of his presence with us,
that people may take note of us, that we have been with Jesus.

Silence is kept.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

O God our Redeemer, whose Son ever lives to make intercession for us:
hear us as we pray for those in any kind of need including Jean, David, Jean
Piers, Isobel, Peter, Pearl, Yvonne, Rute, Ron, Josephine, John, Cecilia
and Ruth.
May he who has borne our infirmities strengthen and heal them,
that they may find grace to help in time of need,
and rejoice in his salvation.

Silence is kept.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Heavenly Father, whose Son has borne our humanity into the heavenly realms,
and gone before us to prepare a place for us:
hear us as we remember before you those whose earthly sojourn is over,
and whose life is now hidden in him with you including those whose
anniversaries fall at this time amongst them Olga Paskins and Velma Smith
Make us joyful and expectant, that at his coming with all his own
we too may go forth to meet him, and share in his eternal joy.

Rest Eternal Grant unto them O Lord
And let light perpetual shine upon them
May they rest in peace
And rise in glory

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God, as in this moment we lift our own prayers to
God.

Silence is kept.

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him taught us to pray saying:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Notices

Garage Sale – In Lue of Queens Park Day

On Sunday 23rd May immediately after the service (11am – 2.30pm) we will have a garage sale in the Vicarage Driveway offering the ‘left over’ QPS goods – and anything else you would like to drop off! We need some volunteers to help with this, and then taking any leftovers to either a charity shop or the dump on Monday. Please let Mo C know if you can help.



Possible Pilgrimage to Canterbury

We are hoping to have a day pilgrimage to Canterbury in the Summer. We would go on the fast train from either St Pancras or Stratford; visit the Cathedral and hopefully attend a service, as well as explore other parts of the Cathedral precinct. We would be interested in knowing what you would like to see and whether you would be interested in such a trip.

Deanery Synod Meeting – June 3rd

The first post-lockdown Deanery Synod will take place on June 3rd (7.30pm, St Matthew's Willesden) with the theme 'Education'. Our own Simon Judge is one of the speakers. This is an open meeting and anyone may attend.

Church of England report from Anti-Racism Task Group

The Archbishops' Anti-Racism Taskforce has published its report 'From Lament to Action' proposing a suite of changes to begin bringing about a change of culture in the life of the Church of England. You can read the report and its recommendations here – <https://www.churchofengland.org/media-and-news/news-releases/lament-action-archbishops-anti-racism-taskforce-calls-urgent-changes>

Daily Hope 24hour phonenumber

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

Celebrating Local Heroes

We would like to celebrate all those who have contributed to our local area over the past 12 months. Those who have delivered food, phoned the lonely, worked in Frontline Services or helped out their neighbours. All those nominated will have their photo and contribution displayed as part of a Public Exhibition at St Anne's during June 2021. You must ask the nominee's permission before submitting their name and photo. Nominations must be received no later than the 20th May 2021 for inclusion in the exhibition. At the end of the Exhibition the displayed poster will be presented to the nominee.

Laurence's Larder

The Larder is open again every Thursday and has just appointed a co-ordinator to assist in developing the way it operates. You can still leave your donations, tinned fish or any non-perishable food in the basket at the top of the stairs. You can see updates on this work at <https://www.laurenceslarder.org.uk>



For our prayers Jean, David, Jean, Piers, Isobel, Peter, Pearl, Yvonne, Rute, Ron, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth. We remember those who have died and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time including Olga Paskins and Velma Smith.

Services this coming week starting 16th May

Monday 17th – 11am Christian Contemplation on Zoom

Tuesday 18th — 8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel and on Zoom

Thursday 20th— 8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel and on Zoom

Sunday 23rd May 2021– Pentecost

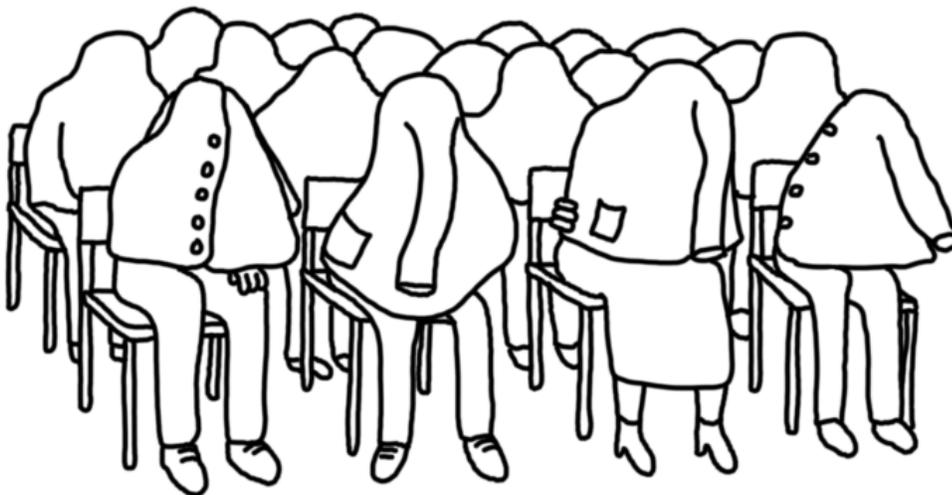
8.30am —Morning Prayer on Zoom

During morning —Thought for the Day on Facebook

9.30am — Eucharist in Church with Sunday School

11am—2.30pm **Garage Sale**

5pm—Service for the day on Zoom



ANYONE?

