

Camel-Allen Churches
Sunday Morning Prayer at Home

Sunday 24th May 2020

Sunday after the Ascension



For forty days following His Resurrection, that first Easter Sunday - His bursting from the tomb and His defeat of the power of sin and death, Jesus walked the earth appearing many times to His disciples, telling them about God's Kingdom.

Last Thursday the Church marked the Ascension; and today we again recall

how He left the earth and returned to His Father, ascending in to Heaven, to take His throne over all powers.

WE PREPARE

Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Christ has ascended on high.

He reigns for ever. Alleluia.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord. Alleluia.

God of our days and years,
we set this time apart for you.

Form us in the likeness of Christ
so that our lives may glorify you. **Amen.**

Hymn

ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME!

let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown Him Lord of all.

Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God,
who from His altar call;
extol the stem of Jesse's rod,
and crown Him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
and ransomed from the fall,
hail Him who saves you by His grace,
and crown Him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe,
on this terrestrial ball,
to Him all majesty ascribe,
and crown Him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng
we at His feet may fall,
join in the everlasting song,
and crown Him Lord of all!

Words by Edward Perronet / John Rippon

We say, 'Sorry'

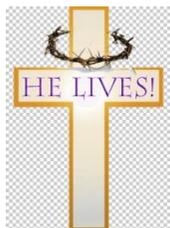
The Spirit of the Lord fills the world
and knows our every word and deed.

Let us then open ourselves to the Lord
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit,
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart,
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You make one, by your Spirit the torn and divided,
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.



...and receive God's loving forgiveness

May Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth,
strengthen us to do God's will
and give us the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song

ALL HAIL KING JESUS,
all hail Emmanuel;
King of kings, Lord of lords,
bright Morning Star,
and throughout eternity,
I'll sing Your praises
and I'll reign with You throughout eternity.

Words and music by Dave Moody

The [alternative] Collect for today

Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Psalm

Psalm 68; 1-10 & 32 - 35

First Reading

Acts 1; 6 - 14

The Ascension

⁶ So when they [*Jesus and the Disciples*] had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"
⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of

the earth.”⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.¹³ And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James.¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Gospel Reading

John 17; 1 - 11

Reflection

He has to go; they have to let Him; God's messengers confirm it, Stop looking up; start looking around; find a new 'normal'.

When He walked the earth, Jesus could be in only one place at any one time; now, through His followers' deeds and words, He is everywhere, all the time.

Knowing they are in for another life-change, the men come down from the mountain and spend time together in prayer, waiting to discover the next step, looking for opportunities, seeking their new 'normal'.

It has been a whirlwind three or so years. Since meeting and joining with Jesus, leaving behind their 'normal' lives; witnessing His miracles, seeing His signs, hearing His words; experiencing the heart-wrenching pain of His death, the overwhelming joy of His resurrection and now saying, 'Goodbye'; their lives will never, can never, be 'normal' again.

Yet they are not down-hearted. Jesus has prayed for them [see today's Gospel], He promised to be with them until the ends of the earth [Matthew 20:28], He said He will send the Holy Spirit to strengthen them [John 14:26]. Jesus keeps his promises and the rest as they say, is history; HIS story.

We, as individuals and the whole world, face a new 'normality'. We can never, must never, seek to return to the way things were before the terrible virus struck. For the sake of the world, we have opportunities before us to reconsider our stewardship of the earth, our relationships and care for others, our demonstration of God's love for all. We are in for another life-change...

Whether that means writing to politicians or signing petitions regarding their actions, standing up for those in need, practically helping others in different ways, adjusting the way we behave, consume, live; or whatever we feel is right, may we undergird our deeds and words in prayer, act in His name and share His love in the world.

We can be assured that Jesus prays for us, is with us at all times and strengthens us with His Spirit.

The Ascension marks an ending, a leaving, a 'Good-bye'; it also marks the beginning of the future; quite what that future is, is now down to us.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!



WE MAKE OUR RESPONSE

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

cf Philipians 2.6-11

Song

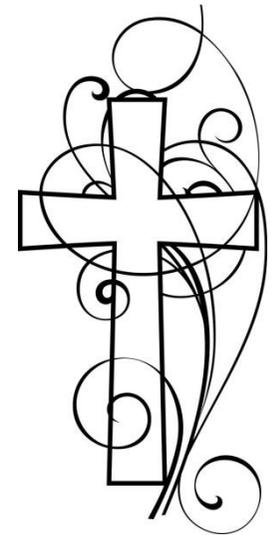
I AM A NEW CREATION,
no more in condemnation,
here in the grace of God I stand.

My heart is over-flowing,
my love just keeps on growing,
here in the grace of God I stand.

And I will praise You, Lord,
yes I will praise You, Lord,
and I will sing of all that You have done.

A joy that knows no limit,
a lightness in my spirit –
here in the grace of God I stand.

Words and music by Dave Bilbrough



WE PRAY TOGETHER

Ascension - not feet disappearing into the sky but a life embraced by God, a life returned, fulfilled, complete.

Lord, lift our vision above our primitive imagination,
to celebrate the life, death and new life of Jesus,
to worship Him, the Saviour of the World...

Ascended Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Ascension - not the loss of Jesus but the gift of a Lord established in victory over all that seeks to destroy.

Lord, lift our vision to see that victory comes in many forms,
often through suffering.

We pray for Christians who suffer now for their faithfulness,
and for all struggling with faith, seeking to fill the Spiritual
hole that is a natural part of us all...

Ascended Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Ascension - not an act of dominance, but an expression of the power of love.

Lord, this is where You are meant to be,
at the right hand of the Father;
and where we are meant to be,
followers and witnesses,
living the faith and loving our neighbour.
Enable us to assist our neighbours in practical ways,
and we pray for them and loved ones...

Ascended Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Ascension - not Jesus leaving home, but Jesus returning home to the Father.

Lord, thank you for what home means to us,
we lift to you those who have no home,
sleeping in dangerous doorways or miserable lodgings;
we pray too for those who find home a difficult place to be,
with strained relationships, abuse, risk, fear,
intensified by the lockdown...

Ascended Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Ascension - not as we see it in stained glass, but as we know it in our hearts. The drama of Jesus' earthly life has ended. The drama of His life in us has just begun.

And for all the prayers we cannot voice because our
language is insufficient or our ignorance too great...

Ascended Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen**

Adapted from intercessions by John Pritchard

Hymn

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 chosen King
through all eternity.

Crown Him the Son of God
before the worlds began;
and ye who tread where He hath trod,
crown Him the Son of Man,
who every grief hath known
that wrings the human breast,
and takes and bears them for His own,
that all in Him may rest.

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.

Crown Him the Lord of heaven,
enthroned in worlds above;
crown Him the King to whom is given
the wondrous name of Love:

all hail, Redeemer, hail!
for Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

Words by Matthew Bridges & Godfrey Thring

OUR SERVICE DRAWS TO A CLOSE

May we know that the risen and ascended Lord
promises to be with us for ever,
to uplift us, to inspire us, to guide us
and to give us a glimpse of his glory.

**And may the almighty and merciful Lord,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
bless us and keep us. Amen.**



And for this final time this Easter season...

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!