



2020

**DEANERY
ASCENSION
DAY
SERVICE**

**Join us as we come
together to celebrate in
Worship as a Deanery...
All are Welcome**

The Gathering:

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

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Greeting:

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
and also with you.

A prayer of confession:

**Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Hymn:

**To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in:**

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son;

And give him the glory - great things he has done!

**O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To every believer the promise of God!
The vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus forgiveness receives:**

Chorus

**Great things he has taught us, great things he has
done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see:**

Chorus

The Collect

Let us pray that our risen and ascended Lord will lead us to
eternal life.

Silence is kept.

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 Ascension Reading: Acts 1.1-11

Talk:

The Ascension marks a transition: the disciples would have to take on more responsibility.

The transition from lockdown to emerging from lockdown places more responsibility on individuals, organisations and employers: there will be disagreement and resistance.

In contrast, the infant church which emerges from Pentecost displays a remarkable degree of unity: is that because of Jesus' two Ascension gifts: time to discern (*stay here in the city ...*) and the resource of the Holy Spirit (*... until you are clothed with power from on high*)?

The result among the disciples is a focus on God and on the needs of others.

These are things we need as we emerge from lockdown: a focus on the greater good rather than our personal liberties. And as we continue to become a Church for the Coronavirus Era, rather than simply seeking to go back to where we were before.

Prayers of Intercession:

The Lord's Prayer:

Looking for the coming of his kingdom,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has
taught us:

**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.**

Hymn:

**O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my Friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,**

**nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.**

**O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.**

**O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end:
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.**

**O let me see thy foot-marks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my Friend.**

Spiritual Communion

Gracious God, your Son at his ascension promised the disciples that they would be clothed with power from on high.

He told them 'I am with you always'.

Send your Holy Spirit, that we may know the presence of your Son among us now .

Make this prayer your own.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,

for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.

O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly,

love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Generous God, your Son told his disciples to stay in the city until they were clothed by the Spirit.

Give courage to those whom you call to stay in places of danger and confusion

when their hearts are full of doubt and disillusion.

Your Son withdrew from the disciples

when they did not know what the future would hold.

Be close to all who face an uncertain future and deeply know their need of you.

Lord, in these days of mercy,
make us quiet and prayerful;

in these days of challenge,
make us stronger in you;
in these days of emptiness,
take possession of us;
in these days of waiting,
open our hearts to the mystery of faith.

Your Son's disciples were continually in the temple
praising you.

Give your church a fresh outpouring of your Spirit
and make it a blessing to all the children of your earth;
until the completion of your Son's ministry
becomes the completion of your whole creation,
and you are all in all, one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn:

**We have a gospel to proclaim
Good news for men in all the earth;
The gospel of a Saviour's name:
We sing His glory, tell His worth.**

**Tell of His birth at Bethlehem,
Not in a royal house or hall
But in a stable dark and dim:
The Word made flesh, a light for all.**

**Tell of His death at Calvary,
Hated by those He came to save;**

**In lonely suffering on the cross
For all He loved His life He gave.**

**Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
Empty the tomb, for He was free.
He broke the power of death and hell
That we might share His victory.**

**Tell of His reign at God's right hand,
By all creation glorified;
He sends His Spirit on His Church
To live for Him, the Lamb who died.**

**Now we rejoice to name Him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel message we proclaim:
We sing His glory, tell His worth.**

Final Prayer:

As we wait
make us ready for your coming Spirit.
As we listen to your word,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.
As we worship you in majesty,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.
As we long for your refreshing,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.
As we long for your renewing,

make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your equipping,

make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your empowering,

make us ready for your coming Spirit.

The Blessing:

God the Father, who has given to his Son the name above every name, strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord. **Amen.**

God the Son, who is our great high priest passed into the heavens, plead for you at the right hand of the Father. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church, make you faithful servants of Christ our King. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**