

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020 Service Details  
Led by Revd Meghan Byerly & Pastor Tony Harris Preaching  
Ascension Sunday



Please see below all the links to our service that go live on Sunday at 10.30am.  
Also see the sermon notes & instructions on how to join our first live Zoom  
service on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020

**Welcome** - <https://youtu.be/frH6RhkahLo>

**Worship** -

Here I am to worship - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q58Lv7WEewM>

Trading my sorrows - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LbQV0eXrnpM>

You never let go - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6jg0FyFmS4>

**The Ascension** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ySgBx10jh2Q>

Kids Worship - Superhero - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPuNeIhBCdk>

**Kids talk** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZodVAo0nR8&t=2s>

Tony's Notes - [Ascension talk notes - Copy](#)

**Sermon** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vOfa1cof88>

**Prayers** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDnBXZXzHpY&t=41s>

**Benediction:** <https://youtu.be/v9wGBbXwDJg>

**Heart Based Discipleship Chat: Lesson 1:** <https://youtu.be/1kuvEbw98EY>

## **The Ascension Talk – Tony Harris – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Reading -

Acts 1:6-12

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” 12 Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city.

Explanation -

The Ascension of Jesus took place in the presence of His disciples 40 days after the Resurrection. It is traditionally thought to have occurred on Mount Olivet in Bethany. According to the gospel writers Jesus was lifted up disappearing into the sky before their eyes. Ascension, according to the biblical witness, does not only refer to the literal "being lifted upwards" but also to a theological reality of Christ's new status of exaltation. Exaltation describes Christ's return to the throne of God - thus constituting a spiritual exaltation. Paul in Eph. 1:20-21 points out that following the resurrection our Lord was elevated above all possible rivals: "far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come."

Prophetically Announced -

A thousand years before the Saviour’s birth, David prophesied the ascension of Jesus (Psa. 110:1). No other psalm is so frequently quoted in the New Testament

Though the disciples struggled with the concept of Jesus’ death, he told them plainly that he was going back to the Father (Jn. 14:12). And, while on trial before the Jewish Sanhedrin, Jesus announced to the high priest that presently he would be “sitting at the right hand of Power” (Mt. 26:64).

Historical Reality -

The ascension of Christ presents a problem for opponents of Christianity. If Jesus was not raised from the dead or if he somehow survived the ordeal of Calvary and died later (as Hugh Schonfield speculated in his infamous book, *The Passover Plot*). Surely the Lord’s enemies would have vigorously sought to reclaim his body, thus nullifying the resurrection story. With such a trophy, Christianity could have been crushed in its infancy.

## The Abiding Significance of Christ's Ascension -

There are several significant doctrinal points connected with the ascension of Christ. Let us consider some of these.

### 1/ The Lordship of Christ

The ascension of the Saviour is an integral part of the belief that Christ is the "Lord," who has the right to exercise "all authority" (Mt. 28:18)

### The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

This supernatural event authenticated the fact that the circumstances of that day, resulted in the establishment of the church of Christ, were divinely orchestrated. **The Christian regime is from God, not man.**

### 2/ Authenticated the Inspiration Word

The ascended Christ empowered certain early disciples with miraculous gifts. Such as speaking all different languages (more of this next week during the Pentecost talk).

### 3/ His Return

The ascension of Christ demonstrated the manner of Christ's \*final return.

The disciples "beheld" Jesus vanishing into the clouds (Acts 1:11b). They **literally** saw Christ ascend.

This clearly indicates that the Saviour's second coming will be a **literal** coming.

Luke's language also eliminates the theory that the Lord's next coming will be an invisible rapture-coming as many believe.

### 4/Evidence of our Heavenly High Priest

The ascension of Jesus provides us with a supreme confidence that we have a heavenly High Priest who, having been "crowned with glory and honour" ever lives to make intercession for us.

### 5/ Our Future Is in Heaven

The ascension also indicates that our eternal destiny will not be upon a glorified earth, as many believe. Jesus entered heaven as a "forerunner" (one who goes in advance of others) for us (Heb. 7:20).

By his return to heaven, Christ “dedicated for us” a new and living way that is not earthly in nature (Heb. 10:20). Earth is not heaven (Mt. 6:19-20).

#### 6/ We Should Implement the Will of Our King

The ascension of Christ underscores the fact that Christians are charged with the responsibility of implementing his will on earth, as he reigns from heaven. The Teacher’s parting words commissioned his people to make disciples of every creature among the nations throughout the earth (Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Lk. 24:47).

In the Parable of the Pounds, the Nobleman (Christ), who went into the far country (heaven), expected his servants to wisely utilize, on his behalf, that which had been placed at their disposal. Most servants did well and were handed cities as a payment however the servant who ignored this obligation was rejected and punished, along with those characterized as “enemies” (see Lk. 19:12-27).

Let us, therefore, shoulder the responsibility, and be honoured thereby.

Close in prayer

### **Preparing for live Zoom service**

On the 31<sup>st</sup> May we aim to do our Sunday morning service live using something called Zoom. We are wanting to do this to encourage a sense of family on Pentecost Sunday. If it works well, we will do it again for the church anniversary at the end of June. Some of you may be familiar with Zoom and for others it may be something which you have not used and may feel a little apprehensive about the idea of worshipping this way. The aim of this short introduction is to help you get ready for the 31<sup>st</sup> and hopefully allay some fears.

Zoom is a free application (app) which you can download onto your smart phone, tablet, or computer. To install it simply go to [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) and sign up and install. **If you don’t want to do this you can phone into the service on the day from any phone (see below)** or you can watch the service after the live event by going to the church website and clicking on the link will take you to the recording of the service.

Once you have downloaded the app you can have a play with it to get used to the controls. You can start your own meeting on your Zoom home panel by clicking on the orange ‘New Meeting’ button. By moving your cursor/finger over the panel which will open up you will be able to see the different controls. Make sure you check your sound is working OK, learn how to turn your video on and mute yourself. You can join a meeting without your video on, but others will only be able to hear you and not see you.

To join the service on the day from 10.15am onwards you will need a link or a meeting number and password. To obtain these email Lizzy.

You will then enter a waiting room where the host will have to give permission for you to join the service. This is just an added bit of security which helps to keep us all safe. If during the service

there is the very unlikely event of there being an issue with your video or sound the host may put you back into the waiting room while you sort it out. Don't take this personally, it just makes for a more pleasant environment for us all.

Once the service starts it will help if you put your device on speaker view rather than gallery. We'll explain how you do this on the day. You will also be put on mute as again this makes it a better experience for everyone watching. **The service will also be recorded but the recording will only show those who are speaking.**

**Please feel free to share the log in details with friends who you might like to invite BUT PLEASE DO NOT POST ON ANY PUBLIC PLATFORMS WHICH ARE OPEN TO ANYONE.**

### **Phoning in**

As mentioned above you can phone into the Zoom meeting using any phone by dialling 02034815240 or 0203 695 0088. You will then be asked for the meeting ID and password above. You will then be able to listen in to the service as it happens but won't be able to see or be seen by others. Standard phone charges apply.