



CHEAP STREET CHURCH

To know the love of God through the power of the Holy Spirit and with Jesus as our teacher to show and share our faith.

Minister:

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NEWSLETTER

12th May 2021

Ascension Day



Thought for the Day

Ascension Day, for me, is Christmas plus. There is all the wonder of the Son of God, coming to this earth, plus all the wonder of what He has achieved while He was here.

I thought today we might celebrate by using the best known of all the Ascension hymns, “Hail the day that sees Him rise”, which is number 300 in StF, and we will read it rather than sing it, partly because we are not supposed to be singing at present, but mostly so that we can concentrate on the words. We’ll take each verse in turn. I’ll give a very brief introduction and then we’ll read the words together, saying the Allelujahs just once at the end of each verse. The last verse we will sing, as discreetly as we can, though with a rousing accompaniment.

Then we shall end our service with a reading of one of the bible’s Ascension stories and a prayer.

So, to the first verse, which directs us to the two sides of the Ascension. In one sense this is loss to us. He is “ravished from our wistful eyes” and we shan’t see Him again in His human form. But on the other hand, it must be, mustn’t it, a cause for great celebration? Jesus is going home to heaven, where He belongs.

So, let’s read **verse 1** together:

Hail the day that sees Him rise
Ravished from our wistful eyes.
Christ, awhile to mortals given
Reascends his native heaven.
Allelujah!

Verse 2 stays with Jesus coming to His heavenly home, which rejoices to welcome Him and to join in His triumph. Let's read that together. This is **verse 2**:

There the glorious triumph waits
Lift your heads, eternal gates,
Wide unfold the radiant scene
Take the King of Glory in.
Allelujah!

But the King of Glory doesn't forget where He has come from. The earth that He has come from is still in His heart, for He has made earth His home, too.

So, we read **verse 3**:

Him though highest heaven receives
Still he loves the earth He leaves.
Though returning to His throne,
Still He calls mankind His own.
Allelujah!

Jesus has brought back to heaven the signs of what He has done for his earthly brothers and sisters. And what He still wants to give his followers we read in **verse 4**:

See! He lifts his hands above.
See! He shows the prints of love.
Hark! His gracious lips bestow
Blessings on His church below.
Allelujah!

So, the Ascension is for us to rejoice in His glory, but also to share in it ourselves.

So, **verse 5**:

Master, parted from our sight
High above the azure height,
Grant our hearts to you may rise,
Following you beyond the skies.
Allelujah!

This sharing with Jesus is not just something for us to do in our earthly lives, immense privilege though that is. This is what eternity will be for us. So, the hymn comes to its climax with a picture of heavenly worship.

And **verse 6** we sing, together with all the Allelujahs:

Cast ourselves before Your throne. Allelujah!

Here our heaven of heavens to own. Allelujah!

There we shall with You remain. Allelujah!

Partners of Your endless reign. Allelujah!

And then there is a reading, which is Luke 24, 30-33. And a prayer:

“Father, we bless you that we still have Jesus as our brother in heaven and always shall have. And we ask for ourselves and those we have especially in mind that we may know our heavenly brother’s company, his comfort, his guidance and his love in all things. We ask that we may continue to be his faithful followers until that day when we meet him in heaven. Amen”

And finally we say the Lord’s prayer and the Grace all together.

Christina Le Moignan

Sunday Worship

This Sunday’s Order of Service – May 16th
Led by Janet Le Moignan

Call to Worship

Hymn StF 103 God is Love; let heaven adore him [click here](#)

Prayer & Lord’s Prayer

Reading Acts 1: 1-9
Comment

Hymn StF 319 Christ triumphant, ever reigning [click here](#)

Reading John 17: 6-19

Sermon

Hymns SfF 360 Lord Jesus Christ [click here](#)
776 In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful [click here](#)

Prayer Offertory & Intercessions

Hymn SfF 503 Love divine, all loves excelling [click here](#)

Benediction

Thoughts based on Lectionary Reading John 17: 6-19

This reading comes just before Jesus was to go out to the garden of Gethsemane, a place he had been many times before, with his disciples, but this time it would be like no other. He knew it would lead to his arrest, and then his crucifixion. His time on earth was nearly over, he had spread the message of God’s love by what he had said and by what he had done. Many had listened and wondered at him, but he had a group of 12 special disciples who had grown to know and trust him most, though in the end one would betray him. For the rest, they would be the ones to continue his work, telling of Jesus and of God’s love for all people.

So, in this time of crisis, Jesus prayed to his Father for these disciples, that he would protect them from evil and keep them safe in the truth. Jesus himself had been their Shepherd, leading them forward and guarding them from danger. Soon that could no longer happen physically, but he prayed that they might know they were still linked in love to him and to his Father God, through all that might happen to them in future days. The disciples would be left to witness to their belief in Jesus – and they were successful in passing it on. Christianity has spread throughout history and to the far corners of the globe. But there are still many who know nothing of Jesus Christ or of God's love for them. Christians in today's world must also be witnesses. Jesus gave that commission to his first disciples and he gives it to us. To do that, we too must know his love for us and grow in it day by day.

Janet Le Moignan

Pastoral News

We are sad to report that Louise, Michael and Hilary Brown's daughter-in-law, died peacefully last Monday, after coping with cancer for many years. Their son, Ian, had looked after Louise at home and kept the family together over the last year. We pray for Ian, for their two young daughters and for all the wider family in this time of loss, and we will continue to remember them.

Both Eirwen Cox (who would normally be writing this news) and Barbara Porter have had some difficulties to overcome in their convalescence recently. We pray for increasing health and strength in the days ahead. Pat Heal, who had eye surgery last Thursday, is progressing well, and is very grateful for people's thoughts and prayers.

Janet Le Moignan

Fellowship of Prayer

Whenever and wherever we pray in the silence of our hearts, we are part of a rich and powerful fellowship, which serves to sustain everyone in our Church Family. Anyone can join the prayer group by just praying.

We hold in prayer Michael and Hilary Brown and family, Kathy Crew, Tom and Marian Carmichael, Barbara and Dennis Porter; Clive and Jill Turner and Ellie and Sophie; Yve and Ken Ackroyd and all the family; Janet Baker; Phyllis Batchelor; Duncan's mother; Alex Palmer; Peter and Marjorie Kett.

We continue to remember the families of those who have died recently: Derek Hayward, Ron Dolling, Charles Pennington, Gill Hunt, John Hooper, Hilda Clarke, John Green, Graham Penlington and Brian Crew.

The Prayer Ring is available for an urgent need or situation.

Call any of these numbers and the circle of prayer will begin:

Eirwen Cox 01935 815960, Penny Gardner 01935 389153, Janet Le Moignan 01935 38966

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. This runs from Ascension Day, this Thursday, until Pentecost, 23rd May, when we're invited to pray each day for five friends or family members, that they may come to know Jesus as their saviour. So let's all try to pray each day, wherever we are, at about 12 noon, if possible, that they may come to accept God's call.

Jackie Bullen

Prayers for the persecuted church

Israeli & Palestinian Conflict: It is heart-breaking to witness on our television screens the appalling suffering taking place in the current conflict in this area. We can but fall to our knees and ask God to give wisdom to the nations' leaders, so that they may establish an early ceasefire, and renew their efforts to bring about peace in the long-standing conflict. We ask for your comfort on those who are suffering, those who have lost loved-ones, the frightened, the injured, the medical staff and emergency personnel trying to deal with this dreadful situation. Lord, please pour your blessing on them all. Amen.

Poem for the Week



UNIDENTIFIED GUEST:

Ah, but we die to each other daily.
What we know of other people
Is only our memory of the moments
During which we knew them. And they have changed since then.
To pretend that they and we are the same
Is a useful and convenient social convention
Which must sometimes be broken. We must also remember
That at every meeting we are meeting a stranger.

TS Eliot "The Cocktail Party" (1949)

Letters

The Cheapstreeter

If you have anything for The Cheapstreeter, please, could you let me have it by **Tuesday, 25th May**
Many thanks, Raymond raymondwood1949@gmail.com

Pat Heal would like to thank her Cheap Street friends for all the letters, cards, emails and phone calls she received before and after her operation for retina repair and cataract removal. The thoughts and prayers from you all have been so much appreciated and genuinely felt. The surgeon has said there is an 80 per cent chance of not having a second operation as originally thought. *Pat Heal*

Dear All,

This year's AGM of Sherborne Churches Together will be held in the Griffiths Room at the Digby Memorial Church Hall at 7.30pm on the 7th June.

This meeting is open to any member of any congregation in Sherborne, so can I ask you to advertise this meeting within your own church.

SCT is currently looking for a Treasurer. If anyone from Cheap Street Church would like to step in, we would be delighted to hear.

We will obviously follow all the COVID guidelines which are in force at the time. I will liaise with the Manager of the Hall prior to the meeting so as to be sure that every protocol is followed.

If you would like a copy of the 2019 AGM minutes and a copy of this year's Agenda, please contact Sharon Hooper directly. (SHooper3@educ.somerset.gov.uk)

Kind regards,

John Bradshaw

Chairman Sherborne Churches Together

From the treasurer

Christian Aid Jub Appeal

To contribute in church please put your donation in the offering in an envelope marked *Christian Aid jub* not later than Sunday 23rd. Please add your name and address, if Gift Aid can be claimed on your donation.

There are the following options to contribute online:

- <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-donate/give-thanks-your-coronavirus-vaccine>
- <https://giving.tapsimple.org/online/christian-aid/giving-thanks-for-our-vaccines-across-southampton-methodist-district>
- <https://urc.org.uk/latest-news/3740-give-thanks-for-your-vaccine-through-urc-fundraiser>

You can also send me a cheque payable to *Cheap Street Church Sherborne*. Please indicate if Gift Aid can be claimed on your donation.

Disasters Emergency Committee Coronavirus Appeal

You can donate online by clicking here: <https://donation.dec.org.uk/coronavirus-appeal>

For other ways to donate: <https://www.dec.org.uk/how-you-can-help> including:
phone: 0370 60 60 900 and text: text the word DONATE to 70150 to give £10.

2020 Offering Envelopes

Janet Le Moignan has some spare sets of offering envelopes just waiting to be used.

Standing Order Form

There will be a standing order form available in church from Sunday for anyone wishing to switch away from envelopes.

Gift Aid Form

There is also a gift aid form. Please sign up if you pay income tax and have not previously completed a form to boost your giving by 25%.

George Faris (gfaris48@gmail.com 01935 420258)

[Worship Resources](#)

Radio 4 Sunday Worship at 8.10am: [click here](#)

A Name Above All Names

Sunday Worship

The Rt Rev Jan McFarlane reflects on the Ascension of Christ in live worship from Lichfield Cathedral with the cathedral choir singing Ascensiontide hymns and anthems.

Methodist resources: **[click here](#)**. URC resources: **[click here](#)**.

URC: **[daily devotions and a Sunday service](#)** (**[click here to subscribe](#)**).

Contributions to future newsletters

Please send contributions by midday Wednesday to:

Penny Gardner pennylgardner@gmail.com 01935 389153 and

Ruth Rogerson rogersonruth@gmail.com 01935 813498.