

# *Ascension Sunday*



*The Beacon Parish*

*Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021*

## Gathering 'Ascension Song'

There is a higher throne  
than all this world has known,  
where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue  
will one day come.

Before the Son we'll stand,  
made faultless through the Lamb;  
believing hearts find promised grace -  
salvation comes.

Hear heaven's voices sing;  
their thunderous anthem rings  
through emerald courts and sapphire skies  
their praises rise.

All glory, wisdom, pow'r,  
strength, thanks, and honour are  
to God our King, who reigns on high - forevermore.

And there we'll find our home,  
our life before the throne;  
we'll honour him in perfect song,  
where we belong.

He'll wipe each tear-stained eye  
as thirst and hunger die.

The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King;  
we'll reign with him.

## Welcome

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

**All Amen.**

Christ has ascended on high.

**All He reigns for ever.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord. Alleluia!**

## Ascension Reading

While staying with them, Jesus 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.'

Almighty God,  
your Son has opened for us  
a new and living way into your presence.  
Give us new hearts and constant wills  
to worship you in spirit and in truth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## Psalm 47

Clap your hands together, all you peoples.

**All O sing to God with shouts of joy.**

For the Lord Most High is to be feared;  
he is the great King over all the earth.

**All He subdued the peoples under him  
and the nations under his feet.**

He has chosen our heritage for us,  
the pride of Jacob, whom he loves.

**All God has gone up with a merry noise,  
the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.**

O sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

**All For God is the King of all the earth;  
sing praises with all your skill.**

God reigns over the nations;  
God has taken his seat upon his holy throne.

**All The nobles of the peoples are gathered together  
with the people of the God of Abraham.**

For the powers of the earth belong to God  
and he is very highly exalted.

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning  
is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

O God the King of glory,  
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ  
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:  
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,  
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us  
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ  
is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

## Revelation 21

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth;  
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,  
and the sea was no more.

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,  
coming down out of heaven from God,

prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
'See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said,  
'See, I am making all things new.'

Also he said, 'Write this,

for these words are trustworthy and true.'

Then he said to me, 'It is done!

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

To the thirsty I will give water

as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

Those who conquer will inherit these things,

and I will be their God and they will be my children.'

This is the word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

## The Apostles' Creed

Do you believe and trust  
in God the Father?

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust  
in his Son Jesus Christ?

**All I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust  
in the Holy Spirit?

**All I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## Song

When it's all been said and done,  
there is just one thing that matters:  
Did I do my best to live for truth?  
Did I live my life for you?

When it's all been said and done,  
all my treasures will mean nothing.  
Only what I've done for Love's reward,  
Will stand the test of time.

Lord your mercy is so great,  
that you look beyond our weakness,  
and find purest gold in miry clay;  
making sinners into saints

I will always sing your praise,  
here on earth and ever after.  
For you've shown me Heaven's my true home:  
When it's all been said and done,  
you're my life when life is gone

When it's all been said and done,  
there is just one thing that matters:  
Did I do my best to live for truth?  
Did I live my life for you?  
Lord I'll live my life for you.

## Prayers

Let us pray.

As we reflect on what we have heard this morning,  
so Lord, we pray for the world and the life  
you have given us as a prelude to the next.

Ascended Lord Jesus,

**All may our prayer rise before you.**

We, Lord, are full and satisfied in so many ways,  
yet others are empty with longing.  
We pray for all who go hungry this day  
and those who are parched with thirst,  
those whose emptiness is the pain of curable disease  
and unnecessary suffering,  
those whose pain has endured for many years  
and those whose condition is incurable.

Those whose disease is of a different kind  
as they struggle under the darkness of injustice,  
oppression and war.

Lord, may your heavenly kingdom come –  
bringing transformation, hope and new life.

Ascended Lord Jesus,

**All may our prayer rise before you.**

There are often times, Lord, when we can feel like  
strangers in this world - as sojourners searching  
for our true home.

May your people find their true belonging in you.  
We pray too for those who are lost and lonely;  
for the homeless and the housebound alike;  
for the bereaved and those surrounded by grief,  
for those who watch with loved ones as they fade away.  
And we pray Lord for all who are dear to us;  
for you blessing upon our family and friends....

Ascended Lord Jesus,

**All may our prayer rise before you.**

Lord, in this world, where we have grown accustomed to reports of terrorism, violence, hatred and division, we pray for those whose notion of your will is so skewed, that in the name of their belief they plot to take the lives of others. Set a guard against all acts of violence; we pray particularly for peace in Israel, the land made holy by your presence and where you taught us to love our enemy, to offer the other cheek and to forgive. May your blessing be upon those in the key positions of power and authority, that their actions may be in accordance with your life giving wisdom and will. Ascended Lord Jesus,

**All may our prayer rise before you.**

Lord, we give you special thanks this day for 100 years of the Royal British Legion.

Thank you for its mission to call us to 'Remember' and to never repeat the tragedies of the past.

We thank you for countless ceremonies at war memorials in villages, towns and cities;

and also in schools and colleges, hospitals and homes, war cemeteries and battlefields,

and for every 'two minutes' of respectful silence in shops and stations, sports events and broadcasts.

We give thanks for the Legion's superb work in supporting veterans and their families

and helping so many who bear the physical and mental wounds of war to rebuild their lives.

May your blessing be upon their continued work

and may the torch carried so faithfully by the Legion's members be successfully passed on to future generations.

Ascended Lord Jesus,

**All may our prayer rise before you.**

We make all our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our crucified, risen, ascended and glorified Lord.

**All Amen.**

## The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All and also with you.**

## Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**All and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ the King of glory.  
Born of a woman, he came to the rescue  
of our human race.

Dying for us, he trampled death and conquered sin.  
By the glory of his resurrection  
he opened the way to life eternal  
and by his ascension, gave us the sure hope  
that where he is we may also be.

Therefore the universe resounds with joy  
and with choirs of angels we proclaim your praise:

**All Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son  
our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example  
and obey his command, grant that by the power  
of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood.

Who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup  
and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All**

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen and ascended:**

**Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our ascended great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**All**

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

**All**      **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.**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**All**      **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**All**      **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.**

The table of bread and wine is now ready.  
It is the table of company with Jesus  
and a foretaste of the promised Heavenly banquet.  
So, come to this table,  
It is Jesus or ascended Lord who invites you  
to rise to meet him here.

## Music during Communion

There is a hope that burns within my heart,  
that gives me strength for every passing day;  
a glimpse of glory now revealed in meagre part,  
yet drives all doubt away:  
I stand in Christ, with sins forgiven;  
and Christ in me, the hope of heaven!  
My highest calling and my deepest joy,  
to make his will my home.

There is a hope that lifts my weary head,  
a consolation strong against despair,  
that when the world has plunged me in its deepest pit,  
I find the Saviour there!  
Through present sufferings, future's fear,  
he whispers 'courage' in my ear.  
For I am safe in everlasting arms,  
and they will lead me home.

There is a hope that stands the test of time,  
that lifts my eyes beyond the beckoning grave,  
to see the matchless beauty of a day divine  
when I behold his face!  
When sufferings cease and sorrows die,  
and every longing satisfied.  
Then joy unspeakable will flood my soul,  
for I am truly home.

## Prayer after Communion

**All     God our Father,  
          you have raised our humanity in Christ  
          and have fed us with the bread of heaven:  
          mercifully grant that,  
          nourished with such spiritual blessings,  
          we may set our hearts in the heavenly places;  
          through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Collect for the Royal British Legion

O God of truth and justice,  
we hold before you those whose memory we cherish,  
and those whose names we will never know.  
Help us to lift our eyes above the torment  
of this broken world,  
to the promise of your Heavenly Kingdom  
and grant us the grace to pray  
for those who wish us harm.  
As we honour the past,  
may we put our faith in your future;  
for you are the source of life and hope,  
now and for ever.

**All**     **Amen.**

## Hymn

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,  
entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love;  
the love that asks no question,  
the love that stands the test,  
that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;  
the love that never falters, the love that pays the price,  
the love that makes undaunted  
the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,  
most dear to them that love her,  
most great to them that know;  
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;  
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;  
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,  
and her ways are ways of gentleness,  
and all her paths are peace.

## **Blessing**

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Christ our risen, ascended and glorified King  
pour upon you the abundance of his gifts  
and bring you to reign with him in glory;  
And the blessing of God almighty.....

**All Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

# The Mighty Hike

The Ditchling Divas, aka Naomi, Karen and Dorothy are walking a marathon, that's 26.2 miles from Brighton to Eastbourne on 5<sup>th</sup> June to raise money for

Macmillan Cancer Support. We all know people who have benefitted from the care and support of this wonderful charity so any support you can give us will be greatly



appreciated and the money raised will make our sore hips and blistered feet worthwhile. The link to sponsor us is: [www.justgiving.com/team/Ditchlingdivas1](http://www.justgiving.com/team/Ditchlingdivas1) There will be a sponsorship form at the back of the church and we will also be at the plant sale.

Thank you so much - Karen, Naomi and Dorothy

# Sunday Holy Communion

23<sup>rd</sup> May

Ditchling 10.00am

30<sup>th</sup> May

Ditchling 10.00am

6<sup>th</sup> June

Ditchling 10.00am

13<sup>th</sup> June

Ditchling 10.00am

20<sup>th</sup> June

Westmeston 10.00am

27<sup>th</sup> June

Ditchling 10.00am

## Beacon Parish

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