

MAYFIELD SALISBURY PARISH CHURCH
EDINBURGH

Online Worship Material Available 8.00am Every Sunday

Sunday 24 May 2020

ASCENSION SUNDAY

Psalm 47: 1, 5 - 9

1 Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.

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

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

7 For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.

8 God is king over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.

9 The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God;
he is highly exalted.



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Today's hymns were recorded remotely in individual parts by members of the Mayfield Salisbury Chamber Group, and assembled by Kate Pearson.

AS A DIVERSE PEOPLE, THE CHURCH GATHERS TO WORSHIP ALMIGHTY GOD

Welcome and Introduction

[Click to listen](#)

Good morning to the members and friends of the congregation of Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church; and welcome to this worship online for Ascension Sunday.

Ascension is an ancient feast of the church dating from the 4th century that is kept 40 days after Easter Day which was last Thursday. With this we begin a trio of services: for Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. To help us celebrate these important days in the church's calendar, we welcome the return of members of the Chamber Group whose voices are combined with the music of the hymns played by Kate Pearson, Mayfield Salisbury's versatile organist whose musical skills we've been enjoying from the beginning of these online Services.

I invite you now to join me in a short period of silence in preparation for worship.....

Scripture Sentences

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Let us pray

Giving thanks for the inestimable gift of grace that is offered to us from the abundance of divine love: grace that is mediated through the good things of the earth, like sun filters through the leaves of a tree; grace that lifts our senses like the fragrance of a flower; grace that sings to us from the song of a blackbird, the sound of a river, and voices blended in harmony.

Within the atmosphere of earthly and heavenly grace, let us offer that which may be foremost in our hearts today: delight and thanksgiving in being alive; gratitude for the blessings we may count even at a time of restriction and hardship; the knowledge of our attachment to people and

places, even though these beloved connections may seem out of reach except in our minds and hearts.

And if today or any other day, grace seems hidden from our eyes and far from our awareness, let us lift our hearts just the same in hope of help and healing: help for our fears, our anguish or despair; quietude of soul for our anxiety or perplexity; words of sympathy and kindness heard in the inner ear or from a trusted friend; seeking to believe that whether we live or it is as if we are dying in body, mind or spirit, we are forever held in the unfailing love of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Collect

Almighty God, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things, grant that your Church on earth may be filled with his presence and that he may remain with us always, to the end of the world; through the same Jesus Christ who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

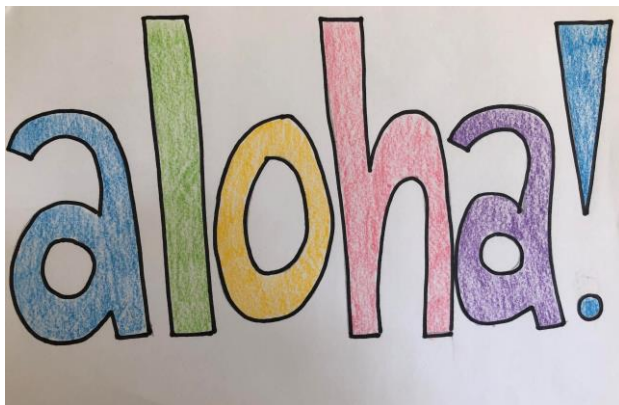
Children's Reflection Hillary Leslie

[Click to listen](#)

Good morning everyone! It's nice to be here with you today. I hope you've all been keeping well at home.

All around the world, people speak different languages, and they all have their own words for 'goodbye.' Can you think of a phrase we say in Scotland when we say goodbye? Sometimes we say 'See you later!' or 'See you soon!' when we are hopeful to be together again.

Some languages even have words that are used to say both hello AND goodbye. Can you think of any words? The Italians say 'Ciao!' for



hellos and goodbyes. My favourite, though, comes from Hawaii – does anyone know what word Hawaiians use to both say hello and goodbye? They say 'Aloha!' Not only is the word used to say hello and

goodbye, but the deeper meaning of the word is the idea that we are sharing love, peace and compassion with another person – the life force that unites the world. We don't have a word for 'Aloha' in English because it carries a beautiful message that's difficult to put into words. Can you think of times when you've had to say goodbye? How does it make you feel to say goodbye? Many of us have had to say unexpected goodbyes and 'see you later' to friends, family and teachers while staying at home during lockdown. Sometimes it's hard to say 'see you later' when we don't know when 'later' will be. Although we have had to say 'goodbye for now' to many people during the lockdown, most of us are still able to be with them, by video chatting, phoning or writing letters and emails.

Sometimes we may not ever see a person face-to-face again after saying goodbye, and that can be very sad. We carry those people with us though, through the memories and experiences we have shared with them; they remain in our hearts and minds.

Today is Ascension Sunday which is the day in which the risen Jesus ascends, or goes up, to heaven. The disciples were very sad after Jesus' death, but then Jesus came back. Now, it appears that Jesus is leaving them again, and that they will need to say goodbye to him again. But the disciples don't need to say their goodbyes with Jesus, because Jesus isn't leaving them.

Jesus hasn't left us behind; he is sending us out. Jesus has said 'Aloha!' a greeting filled with love, compassion and peace, encouraging us in his 'goodbye' to go out into the world and share God's love, compassion and peace with others. Jesus remains with us in our hearts and minds, and as he rises to heaven, we are being asked to rise to his call to share God's love, compassion and peace in the world.

Let's pray together – please repeat after me:

Dear God, thank you for this day

Thank you for the warm weather and sunshine

Please be with those who are lonely or sick today

May we remember the word 'Aloha!'

And that you are always with us

May we share your love and peace with others. Amen

HYMN 438 The Head that once was crowned with thorns [Click to listen](#)

The Head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now;
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty Victor's brow.

The highest place that heaven affords
is his, is his by right,
the King of kings, and Lord of lords,
and heaven's eternal Light;

The joy of all who dwell above,
the joy of all below
to whom he manifests his love,
and grants his name to know:

To them the cross, with all its shame,
with all its grace, is given;
their name an everlasting name,
their joy the joy of heaven.

They suffer with their Lord below,
they reign with him above,
their profit and their joy to know
the mystery of his love.

The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him,
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.

Thomas Kelly (1769-1855)

WE LISTEN FOR THE SPIRIT OF GOD

First Reading Ephesians 1: 15 - 23 [Click to read](#) [Click to listen](#)

Second Reading St Luke 24: 44 - 53 [Click to read](#) [Click to listen](#)

Readers: Lucia Garland and Kay McIntosh DCS

Reflection

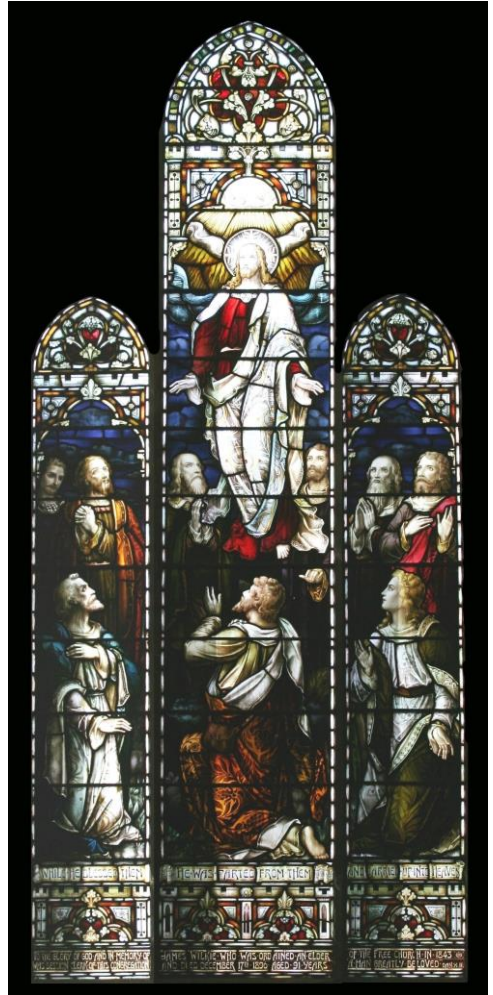
By Revd Helen Alexander

[Click to listen](#)

St Luke's imaginative capacity to translate theological truth into word-pictures didn't only produce the beautiful narratives of Jesus' birth at the beginning of his Gospel for it ends with the striking image of Christ's ascension into heaven. Luke repeated this at the beginning of the Book of Acts, his history of the early church, with embellishments to the story: the introduction of the cloud of God enveloping Jesus, after the manner of the ascension of the prophet Elijah recorded in the First Book of Kings; the appearance of two angelic-looking figures similar to those who appeared to the women in his empty tomb story; and setting the story in a different time frame: forty days after Resurrection Day rather than on the evening of that day which is where he puts it in his Gospel.

Throughout the ages, Luke's account of Christ's Ascension into heaven has produced many artistic representations in churches of the East and West. We've one close to home. The Ascension window in the South Transept of Mayfield Salisbury was the first to be installed in the church in 1899, followed in 1902 by the window beside it entitled the Kingdom of Heaven, depicting a kingly Christ seated in glory surrounded by angels and blessed representations of faithful humanity. The two windows form an insightful partnership.

Pictures of a glorified Christ with a crown on his head and an orb and sceptre in his hands may appeal less to us than it did to people in the past. Ours is a more egalitarian age, in theory if not in practice. Nonetheless the invitation to 'Rejoice! the Lord is King' may still work



especially for those who admire the Queen of the United Kingdom whose long life has been shaped by her acknowledgement of an ultimate authority that is of an altogether different order to her own.

Whatever we make of this, there's an interesting artistic tradition with regard to the Ascension which developed in the Middle Ages, whereby all you see of Christ as he ascends into heaven are his disappearing feet, while the astonished apostles gaze upwards. Some of these pictures with feet peeping quaintly below the hem of his robe have their comical side, perhaps reminding us that humour can be as helpful as sobriety in communicating truth, and sometimes more memorable.



Ascension from a Bible moralisée, Flemish (Bruges), c. 1455-1460

It's impossible confidently to enter into the mind of past artists, but pictures of the disappearing feet make me think of the earthly ministry of Jesus in the dusty land of Palestine. Though he may have hitched the odd ride on a donkey, it seems that mostly he used shanks's pony. In addition to this literal understanding of the importance of his feet, I suggest it's also justifiable to describe Jesus' mission as being 'grounded', to use a modern idiom. We might say that his feet were firmly "on the floor": rooted to the earth, to the needs and deepest desires of the people he encountered; to their hunger for food and nourishment of soul; to their struggles in relationship, their hope of healing, their sorrows and their joys. We're told that Jesus prayed, not apparently as pious escapism but in such a way as to send him straight back to the messy reality of life. And in the end, far from tiptoeing around the greatest horror of his betrayal and death, he stepped right up to it in a manner of speaking, and was nailed on the cross by his feet and hands for his pains.

A comparatively recent picture of the Ascension that highlights Christ's hands and feet was painted in 1958 by Salvador Dali. There's a huge amount in this painting, but one of the striking features is that the large feet are absolutely foreground, their soles coated in what looks like dust or grime, facing towards the viewer. No coy peeping toes here. Whatever else he's doing, Dali's Christ is undoubtedly taking the experience of his earthly toil with him on his journey.

Earlier artists seem to have developed this insight. From early in the Fifteenth Century a number of paintings of Christ's disappearing feet also featured footprints left behind on the earth, embedded in it like ancient fossilized prints that have been discovered in our time.

While many in our day consider the Christian faith something of a fossil itself, this art is far from suggesting such a thing. Rather the imprint of the feet seem graphically to suggest that as well as our humanity's being raised to the highest value by Christ's having lived it – an essential meaning of the story of the Ascension - it is up to believers in any age to seek to live in the light of his life so that it doesn't disappear as if into the heavens but is practised again and again in the world: "the Word of God became man, that thou mayest learn from man how man may become God" said Clement of Alexandria, whose life spanned the end of the 1st and beginning of the 2nd Century, thus prompting us to overlook his exclusive language.

Clement is surely implying that it is for you and me to seek to walk in Christ's footsteps; to have "the eyes of (our) heart enlightened" to adapt the rather lovely phrase of the writer to the Ephesians; to take to heart his teaching; to trust in providence, mercy and grace; to practice integrity and generosity of heart, and to support help for the poorest and healing for sick bodies and minds.

We are likely to fail in this endeavour of course, certainly some of the time. We may fall on the road and suppose that our burdened feet will carry us no longer. It is then that in Christ's wounded feet we may glimpse something of his glory as well as his pain, and be encouraged to stand on our own feet again to keep the faith in practical as well as worshipful ways, if indeed the two can be separated.

[Click here to view and learn about Salvador Dali's *The Ascension of Christ*.](#)

RESPONSE TO THE SPIRIT OF GOD WITHIN

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

[Click to listen](#)

For the Ascension of Christ: Good Christians, one and all, rejoice

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

[Click to listen](#)

On this day when we celebrate Christ's impulse and love encircling the whole world, let us pray for the world in all its beauty and tragedy, its crisis and its opportunity for healing and hope.

As many of us are able to perceive more of the earth's beauty on our doorsteps than we have in years, let us pray that the renewal of the earth may continue long beyond this present time, and that out of this crisis may come solid awareness of the preciousness of the gift of the world that is our home.



At the close of Mental Health Awareness Week in our land, let us pray that our society may recognise all that works against the health of people in mind and spirit as well as in body, and may continue to work for an increase in kindness and for the well-being of all.

Let us think of suffering people near at hand and in places far away: those who are desperately worried about their welfare and their ability to earn a living for themselves and their families; those who have been helped by governments and organisations, and those who have somehow fallen through the cracks; those who can't see the way forward, as well as those who are able to use the current circumstances to plan creatively and well.

Amidst our thankfulness for the great spirit of altruism and kind co-operation in this country and beyond, let us pray for those bent on selfishness and destruction and who seek to capitalise on this crisis and to cheat the unwary for their own gain.

Restricted as we are to our own homes, let us pray for all who haven't got a home: those in temporary shelters who dread their re-engagement with the outside world; those who live in crowded tents where the threat of the coronavirus compounds existing worries about health and sanitation; those in transit from place to place, and those who have given up the struggle for security and peace altogether.

Let us pray for all whose hearts are prompted to sympathy and help; giving thanks for people who make a difference in small ways and large; and seeking to count ourselves in that number, according to our circumstance and means.

Let us pray for all we love and hold forever in our hearts, even as we remember with thanksgiving all we have loved and lost and love still and are united forever in the glory of the courts of heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lord's Prayer Our Father, which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. 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 439**Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious!**[Click to listen](#)

Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious!
 See the Man of Sorrows now,
 from the fight returned victorious --
 every knee to him shall bow.
 Crown him! crown him! crown him! crown him!
 crowns become the Victor's brow.

Crown the Saviour, angels, crown him!
 Rich the trophies Jesus brings;
 in the seat of power enthrone him,
 while the vault of heaven rings.
 Crown him! crown him! crown him! crown him!
 crown the Saviour King of kings!

Sinners in derision crowned him,
 mocked the dying Saviour's claim;
 saints and angels crowd around him,
 own his title, praise his name.
 Crown him! crown him! crown him! crown him!
 spread abroad the Victor's fame.

Hark, those bursts of acclamation!
 hark, those loud triumphant chords!
 Jesus takes the highest station --
 Oh, what joy the sight affords!
 Crown him! crown him! crown him! crown him!
 King of kings, and Lord of lords!

*Thomas Kelly (1769-1855)***BENEDICTION**[Click to listen](#)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Books for the Journey

My Sour-Sweet Days: George Herbert and the Journey of the Soul by Mark Oakley.
Luminaries: Twenty lives that illuminate the Christian Way by Rowan Williams.

INTIMATIONS

1. **NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:** 1 Corinthians 12: 3b - 13 and Acts: 2: 1 – 21.
2. **REQUEST FROM BETHANY CARE SHELTER** Homeless folks are being housed in the Old Waverley Hotel. The Support Team have requested donations of the following food items;
 - Boxes of cereals (not cornflakes)
 - Jam (not marmalade)
 - Fruit
 - Diluting Juice
 - Coffee
 - Tea
 - Sugar
 - Crisps
 - Individually wrapped biscuits

Also, you might like to donate but not get back:

- Novels in a foreign language (got plenty in English)
- A guitar
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Puzzle books
- Art supplies
- MALE clothing

Financial support also welcome.

If you would like to contribute, please contact Jean and Alastair at jebleitch@gmail.com. We would be happy to collect and deliver items.

PS. Many thanks to those who have already donated so generously!

3. YOUTH UPDATES

Virtual Youth Programming: The *virtual* youth schedule for the month of May can be accessed on the church website under the 'Young People' tab. Please note the time and age group changes for various activities. All youth programming will be held over Zoom. New virtual youth consent forms must be sent to Hillary before attending a session.

For log-in access to the Zoom sessions, or to get a copy of the consent forms, please contact Hillary!

Youth Group: Tonight, Sunday 24 May S1-S6 will meet from 6:.30 - 8.30pm for a Netflix watch party! We will initially meet on Zoom before starting the film. A doodle poll has been sent out to families for the youth to suggest a film. **There will be no youth group meeting for P6 & P7 tonight.** Please contact Hillary if you have questions about using Netflix Party.

Youth Worship: Sunday 31 May we will meet on Zoom for a Youth Worship service at 7.00pm. Bring some colouring and writing supplies as we gather together with music, prayer and time for reflection. For log-in information, please contact Hillary.

4. EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LISTS

Mayfield Salisbury maintains several email lists to help distribute information throughout the congregation. The lists are as follows:

0930 Service list Information pertaining to the Sunday 0930am All-Age Worship and related events.

Youth Newsletter Hillary Leslie, our Youth Worker, sends out a Youth Newsletter to parents of P6 - S6 youth. This keeps the parents and their kids in the loop about important youth-related events and activities

Congregational list General information relevant to the entire congregation. This includes general news, notices of lectures & special events and importantly details on the forthcoming ministerial vacancy.

Grapevine Magazine list The latest magazine in PDF format.

If you would like to be added to any of these lists, please contact the Church Manager, William Mearns on: 0780 801 1234 or churchmanager@googlemail.com

Forthcoming Deadlines

Order of service for next week: Thursday at 6.00pm.

Next Grapevine: **Friday 26 June at 6.00pm.**

Please send submissions to the Church Manager, William Mearns.
Phone: 0780 801 1234 or email: churchmanager@googlemail.com

WHO'S WHO IN MAYFIELD SALISBURY

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Youth Worker

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Church Manager

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