

SERMON NOTES

Sunday 21 May

sunnysidechurch

Ascension

Bible passages: Acts 1.1-11; Luke 24.50-53

Introduction

- Climax and completion of Jesus' life and ministry: Cross? Resurrection? Ascension?
- Ascension essential so Holy Spirit could come and be the same power that was in Jesus in those who believe in him

Acts 1.1-11

- Fullest account of Ascension in the Bible
- Jesus spent 40 days with disciples giving them proofs of resurrection and teaching about the kingdom of God
- Jesus instructs them to wait for the Holy Spirit to come

Importance of Ascension

- 1. Authority:** Jesus has authority because he is enthroned with the Father which gives us confidence to be witnesses
- 2. Humanity:** Jesus takes humanity into the presence of God where he intercedes for us, which gives us comfort and encouragement because he understands (Hebrews 4)
- 3. Responsibility:** Jesus has passed the baton on to us to continue his ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit
- 4. Fidelity:** Jesus' faithfulness means we can have confidence that he will return which encourages us to be faithful

Conclusion

Pray and Worship whilst we wait for Jesus to return: Come Holy Spirit

Some questions for discussion

1. Which would you say marks the climax and completion of Jesus' ministry? Cross? Resurrection? Ascension?
2. Read Acts 1.1-11. What strikes you about this story?
3. 40 days or years often represents a time of preparation (e.g. 40 days of flood; 40 years in the desert; and Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness). In what ways is this true of the 40 days Jesus spends with his disciples?
4. In what ways does the Ascension help you think about Jesus' authority, humanity, responsibility, and fidelity?
5. How might this help you be faithful to him this week?
6. We are thinking about TKC and how we might love and serve the people we are praying for? How could you be Jesus' hands, feet, and eyes for them this week?
7. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through these passages? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

“‘Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God Almighty,
Who was, and is, and is to come.’” Revelation 4.8

Why not spend some time worshipping King Jesus and pray that you will be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit so you may love, serve and grow this week?

Revd Rebecca Fardell