

SERMON NOTES

Sunday 17 May

sunnysidechurch

Bible passages: Daniel 7.9-14 and Acts 1.1-11

Introduction

- Importance of Ascension Day can be overlooked but climax of Peter's Pentecost sermon
- 40 days after resurrection Jesus returned to his Father

1. Jesus now on his throne

- Jesus given 'all authority on heaven and earth' when ascended his throne (cp Daniel 7)
- There he is worshipped and prays for us

2. Jesus not now restricted to one place and time

- Incarnated and resurrected Jesus only ever in one place at one time
- Because Jesus ascended, Father can send the Holy Spirit which be in all believers, in all places and all times

3. Jesus has passed the baton on to us

- Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he was the one showing and teaching people about the kingdom of God
- Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are now called to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth

Conclusion: 'stop doubting and believe'

- Ascension is a hinge point in God's story: Jesus completes his earthly ministry and hands on task to his followers
- Response of disciples is worship, prayer and witnessing

Some questions to discuss

1. Which are your favourite parts of the story of Jesus?
2. Read Acts 1.1-11. What do you notice?
3. Read Daniel 7.9-14. How does this deepen your understanding of Jesus' Ascension?
4. The cloud is an important image in the Bible. Can you think of examples of when it showed God's presence?
5. What does it mean to you that Jesus is praying for you at the right hand of the Father?
6. Why might it be important that we don't know the times or dates the Father has set?
7. Jesus has passed the baton on to us. What might that look like for you this week?
8. Is there one thing that you are taking away from these passages? Is there something you need to do in response? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something God wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

Jesus said, 'you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses' (Acts 1.8)

Why not spend some time thanking God for the gift of the Holy Spirit and asking him to enable you (and Sunnyside) to be good witnesses for him?

Revd Rebecca Fardell