

In Touch across North Barrow

Sunday 24th. May 2020 The Seventh Sunday of Easter

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Worship during the day, alone or with household members

God has rescued us from the power of darkness,
and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son,
alleluia! alleluia! *Colossians 1:13*

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Collect for today

Eternal God, the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
do not leave us comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,
We ask this through Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.
Amen.

Readings : Acts 1:6-14; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11
or during the week from the daily prayer and readings.

The Gospel

17: ¹ Jesus looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. ⁶ I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.'

Prayers

Almighty and everlasting God,
we thank you that you have brought us safely
to the beginning of this day.
Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger;
order us in all our doings and guide us to do always
what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Conclusion

We are raised to new life with Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

A glimpse of glory.

One thing that has taken off during the lock-down is growing from seed. In the UK one supplier is experiencing sales six times higher than normal. Waiting and watching for the seeds to grow is both therapy and fun. Progress can be monitored even when the rest of life is on hold unless of course the slugs and snails get there first!

We may all be looking for the green shoots that begin to show that life will return to a new normal, signs of hope and recovery that we can begin to rebuild our lives. Ascension-tide points the way to another new normal. Jesus restored to the Father's side, sharing again in the glory he had before the world existed, but with one crucial difference. Jesus carries our humanity into the glory of heaven and from heaven the Spirit is poured out on all flesh and the church guided, encouraged and empowered.

In the light of our present experience, it is comforting to know that God's glory, revealed in Jesus Christ, doesn't avoid suffering but embraces it. John testifies that *the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth* (1:14). For John God's glory is seen in powerlessness not domination, in the cross not the crown.

There is a sense that Jesus' prayer in the Upper Room from which this Gospel comes is a sort of Post Communion prayer. A prayer of

hope as the night, the darkness, seemingly overcomes the light of Christ. Glory, for John, can only be reached through the cross; through an act of barbaric hatred. Just as through the challenge of Covid-19 we see the best of human compassion and caring, so on the cross, stripped of all dignity and glory, the true nature of God's love is laid bare for all to see.

It is because of the cross that Jesus is glorified. The cross manifests the scope of divine power by disclosing the depth of divine love. This hope, this glory is not just about the cross, and not just about Jesus either. Jesus goes on to pray: *All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.* Jesus' glory is shared and reflected into the world through the community who are his body here on earth. No wonder that he disciples were instructed to wait until they would *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.*

That witness is seen through service, love and sacrifice. An understanding of being good news by being a community in which love is lived out for others. If God's glory is to be seen through us, then it is through acts of love. For in St Paul's words, *love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.* The present crisis will if we are patient and wait.

With love and prayers,

Fr. Jack.



Verses from Psalm 68

1 Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered; let those that hate him flee before him. 2 As the smoke vanishes, so may they vanish away; as wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; let them make merry with gladness. 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his name; exalt him who rides on the clouds. The Lord is his name; rejoice before him.

5 Father of the fatherless, defender of widows, God in his holy habitation! 6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners to songs of welcome, but the rebellious inhabit a burning desert.

7 O God, when you went forth before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, 8 The earth shook and the heavens dropped down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

9 You sent down a gracious rain, O God; you refreshed your inheritance when it was weary. 10 Your people came to dwell there; in your goodness, O God, you provide for the poor.

32 Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth; make music in praise of the Lord; 33 He rides on the ancient heaven of heavens and sends forth his voice, a mighty voice.

34 Ascribe power to God, whose splendour is over Israel, whose power is above the clouds. 35 How terrible is God in his holy sanctuary, the God of Israel, who gives power and strength to his people! Blessed be God.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Reflections during the week using Lectio Divina

Use the verse, or verses, for each day following the pattern on the previous page. Each colour corresponds to a day of the week. Write any reflections, or ways in which you feel God is speaking to you in the boxes above

NEWS AND NOTES

Ascension / Pentecost Prayer : There will be reflections on the Barrow Mission Community Facebook page for the time between Ascension and Pentecost, and booklets / pdf's for the prayer days after Pentecost will be sent out later. Anyone can access the facebook page whether you have an account or not. The link is <https://www.facebook.com/barrowmissioncommunity>

From Bishop James. Ascension Day and Pentecost reflections. I shall be broadcasting live on the Diocesan Facebook page at 2pm on Thursday 21st May with an Ascension Day reflection, Bishop Emma is producing a filmed sermon based around Acts 2 which will be made available on the Diocesan YouTube channel on Thursday 28th May. Both Bishop Emma and I shall be live on Facebook at 7pm on the evening of Pentecost (Sunday 31st May) to reflect on how everyone is coping through the pandemic and to pray for our county, our country and the world.

Support HUB 9am - 5pm Mon to Fri. Call 01229 444407.

Hospital Chaplaincy Hearts: If anyone would like to help, then the hearts can come to Fr. Jack, Jennet (19 Carlton Ave LA13 5AT), or go straight to Debbie at the Chaplaincy department. The hearts should be up to 3 inches or 8cm across at the widest point. One pattern is <https://blog.createandcraft.tv/free-knitted-heart-pattern/>

Resources : The Sunday Worship video is available on the St. James facebook page from Sunday morning.

Radio and TV : Radio Cumbria Morning Service at 8.00am
CandoFM (106.3) Faith in Furness at 10.30am
BBC Morning Worship at 10.15 on BBC1

For those who are online, the Church of England website has daily and Sunday resources to watch, download and join in with.

The website is : churchofengland.org

Daily Hope Prayer Line - 0800 804 8044 - A Church of England resource with hymns, prayers and reflections for especially for those who are not connected to the internet.

DAILY PRAYER and BIBLE READINGS

SUNDAY *We give thanks that Jesus has ascended to glory and received the Name above all names. Alleluia!*

MONDAY Acts 19:1-8, John 16:29-end
(The Ven. Bede) Pray for our Archdeacon Vernon in his ministry across the south of the diocese.

TUESDAY Acts 20:17-27, John 17:1-11
(Augustine of Canterbury) Pray for Archbishop Justin and his staff, and for all working for the evangelisation of the nation.

WEDNESDAY Acts 20:28-end, John 17:11-19
Pray for Debbie and the Hospital chaplaincy team supporting staff, patients and families during the pandemic.

THURSDAY Acts 22:30, 23:6-11, John 17:20-end
Pray that we would know afresh the love of God poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

FRIDAY Acts 25:13-21, John 21:15-19
Pray for all struggling with their mental health through the pressures and fearfulness of lock-down.

SATURDAY Acts 28:16-20, 30-31, John 21:20-25
Pray for the leading, guidance and empowering of the Holy Spirit as the church is reshaped through the continuing crisis.

If you have prayer requests / thanksgivings, then please let Fr. Jack know either by email or 'phone.

**NEXT SUNDAY
PENTECOST**

Acts 2:1-21, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13, John 20:19-23