

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity welcomes you!

ASCENSION SUNDAY. MAY 12, 2024

Reflection on the Ascension York Minster

If we build a rocket fast enough - will we ever find Christ waiting for us at the edges of time and space? As we celebrate the Ascension, we look naturally to the heavens- and we may well imagine Christ to be up there somewhere in the sky. Perhaps sitting on a cloud or riding on the tail of a comet, God beyond the stars. William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury said: The ascension of Christ is his liberation from all restrictions of time and space. It does not represent his removal from the earth, but his constant presence everywhere on earth.

The Ascension defies human logic and science, Christ departs from us physically, so that he may be present with us for all eternity. I am with you always, says the risen Christ to his disciples- until the end of the age. Why do you stand looking up towards heaven? Ask two men in white robes who appear beside the disciples in Luke's account of the Ascension in the Acts of the Apostles. This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come, in the same way that you saw him go into heaven.

There is a tantalizing clue that this is not the end - that there will be another chapter in the story of salvation. Christ does not leave us as orphans. The Ascension does not represent Christ disappearing out of our lives- it is an event which weaves together his life, death and resurrection into our earthbound humanity and Christian vocation. The work of God in Christ, was never about creating a heavenly home for himself beyond our reach. To grasp something of the meaning of the Ascension, we must return to the incarnation -we must hold on to Jesus feet as he rises. It is no longer God up above and we down below, but a deifying of all that is human. Christ is the bridge between creator and creatures, between Lord and Servant, between divinity and humanity. Through his Ascension we come to know that Christ is everywhere - he is in all things, and with all things and over all things, beyond space and time and with us now as close to us as our very breath. Christ reigns at God's right hand in Glory, the name above every name. He ascends up into heaven lifting and sanctifying humanity.

In the same way, heaven touches earth again through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to breathe life through the whole creation, and continue the work that has already been begun. The Holy Spirit comes to enliven the church and re-create Christ's body, that it may be the means through which the kingdom of God will come on earth, as it is in heaven. From a small group of bewildered men and women, grows a community of transformation and hope. Wherever prayers are said, and praises are offered, and bread and wine shared - wherever peace is proclaimed, and compassion enacted, this kingdom comes a little closer, Christ is present.

SAINTS:

Matthias the Apostle, 14 May. After the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot, the apostles brought their number back to twelve by choosing Matthias to replace him. He was chosen by lot from amongst the disciples. The author of the Acts of the Apostles sees apostleship differently from Paul's interpretation of the rôle and seems to reflect the understanding of the gospel of Luke. The number had to be restored so that they might "sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel". It was conditional that they had to have been with Jesus during his earthly ministry and witnesses to the resurrection. The point of being chosen by lot, rather than by some democratic method, indicated the election or choosing by God, rather than by mortals.

Caroline Chisholm, Social Reformer, 16 May. Caroline Jones was born in 1808. On her marriage to Archibald Chisholm, she took her husband's Roman Catholic faith. They emigrated to Madras in 1831 where she set up a school for soldiers' daughters. In 1838, the family moved to Australia and, almost immediately, Caroline began to work for the vulnerable immigrants arriving at Sydney. She was especially concerned for the women, who were often lured and bullied into brothels. She set up a free Registry Office to help them obtain legitimate work and a shelter and she campaigned for improved conditions. She returned to Britain in 1846 to press for emigration reform and founded the Family Colonisation Loan Society. Her Christian ministry and action led to the ending of what had virtually been the institutionalisation of the abuse of poor women.

MAY:

- TODAY, 3:00p.m., Wedding
- May 18, Saturday, 12noon-5:00p.m., Norway Day
- May 19, Sunday, 11:00a.m., Vestry mtg. ;
French Service, 1:00p.m.
- May 25, Saturday, 2:00p.m., Wedding
- **May 26, TRINITY SUNDAY, JOINT SERVICE, 8:30a.m.**
2:00p.m.,Wedding.
- May 30, Thursday, 3:00p.m.,Healing mass.

JUNE:

- June 2, Sunday, 3:00p.m., Wedding
- June 9, Sunday, 2:00p.m., Wedding
- June 10, Monday, 3:00p.m., Wedding
- June 12, Wednesday, 2:00p.m., Wedding
- June 15, Saturday, 2:30p.m., Wedding
- June 16, Sunday, 11:00a.m., Vestry mtg.
- June 16, Sunday, 3:00p.m., Wedding
- June 19, Wednesday, 3:00p.m., Wedding
- June 22, Saturday, 3:00p.m., Wedding
- June 27, Thursday, 3:00p.m.,Healing mass.