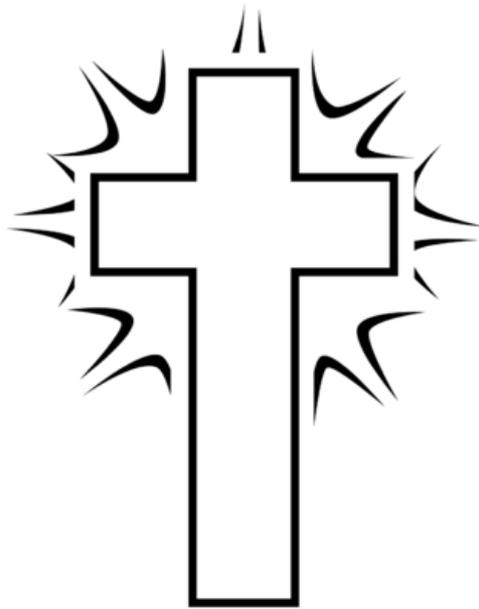


**ST CUTHBERT'S
SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
COLINTON**

**Seventh Sunday of Easter
Sunday after Ascension Day
Wednesday 12 May & Sunday 16 May
2021
10.30am**



*COVID-19
Services in Church and
online on our YouTube Channel*

Welcome to this service, where we are pleased to be able to gather together to worship God. We are only allowed to do this because precautions have been put into place to protect each other as sisters and brothers in Christ during the pandemic. Please follow the guidelines given on the order of service and verbally by the worship leader or welcomers. Face coverings must be worn throughout the service.

Please stand as the clergy enters.

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

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

Please sit

As we are not allowed to sing, please reflect on the words of the hymn and enjoy the music as Philip plays the organ.

HYMN 14 – All hail the power of Jesus' name

All hail the power of Jesus's name,
let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem

*and crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.*

Crown him, all martyrs of your God,
who from his alter call;
praise him whose way of pain you trod,
and crown him...

O prophets faithful to his word,
in matters great and small,
who made his voice of justice heard,
now crown him...

All sinners, now redeemed by grace,
who heard your Saviour's call,
now robed in light before his face,
O crown him...

Let every people, every tongue
to him their heart enthral:
lift high the universal song
and crown him...

*Edward Perronet (1726-1792) adapted by Michael Forster (b.1946) ©This version 1999
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COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

God is love and we are God's children.
There is no room for fear in love.
We love because God loved us first.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**God our Father, we confess to you
and to our fellow members in the body of Christ
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do.**

We are truly sorry.

**Forgive us our sins,
and deliver us from the power of evil.**

**For the sake of your Son who died for us,
Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

God, who is both power and love,
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by the Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please stand

GLORIA (Said)

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord. Keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole of creation to worship at his feet, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit

First Reading: Acts 1.1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will 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.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into

heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1.15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

As we are not allowed to sing, please reflect on the words of the hymn and enjoy the music as Philip plays the organ.

GRADUAL HYMN 150 – Crown him with many crowns

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own:
awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

Crown him the Virgin's Son,
the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won
which now his brow adorn;
fruit of the mystic Rose,
as of that Rose the Stem,
the Root, whence mercy ever flows,
the Babe of Bethlehem.

Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends each burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

Matthew Bridges (1800-1894)

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Please stand

Gospel: Luke 24.44-53

Hear the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

SERMON

Please sit

I'm a big fan of Snoopy – you know the black and white dog in the comic strip Peanuts, with his little yellow friend called Woodstock? Charlie Brown, his owner and other friends in this comic strip often spend time lying on the pitcher's mound looking at the clouds. Did you ever do that as a child, or with the children in your life?

Just looking at big, bright, fluffy clouds. Clouds you see shapes in. Look, it's a rabbit, and over there, a crocodile, that one looks like a car. Do you know the sort of clouds I mean, the one you just have to smile at? The ones that only appear on bright sunny days. The ones that only appear in the very bluest skies. OK, I know we don't get that too often.

I wonder if it was a sky such as this that the disciples stood under at Bethany. Jesus stood before them and talked about himself in the scriptures, in the Law of Moses, in the Psalms and the Prophets. He opened their minds so they could understand. These men had been with him, had witnessed his teaching, his miracles, his torture and death. They now stood with him after his resurrection.

They now understood that they would be taking the message of repentance and forgiveness of sins out into the world. And as they understood, He blessed them, and ascended until a cloud took him from their sight.

Thursday we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, the moment when our Resurrected Lord leaves this mortal world and returns to heaven. But it's much more than that, it's not about Jesus leaving, it's about Jesus taking his rightful position, as Paul tells us and the Ephesians, Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father, as ruler of everything. He is the head of the Church, and we as the Church are his body. We as the Church are the fullness of Christ. Christ is present today in the Eucharist, in the Word, in me and in you, in us all.

So as Jesus left this mortal world, He also joined us, the Church, as we continue to do his work and spread his word. The Disciples knew this, it was evident in the joy they felt as they saw him ascend. Soon the Holy Spirit would come to the disciples and strengthen them for the task, and we will celebrate that at Pentecost next week.

So, Ascension is an ending and a beginning, and today we have heard the same story told in both ways. We first heard the story told at the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles, then we heard it again right at the end of Luke's Gospel.

Most biblical scholars would credit Luke with writing both Luke's Gospel and Acts. So if you were listening closely you may wonder why there are some small difference in the telling.

For me these differences come about because the focus of the Gospel is Jesus, while the focus of Acts is the work of the Apostles.

In the final few sentences of Luke's Gospel, he tells us Jesus is divine, he is the Christ, he is God. We hear that the scripture foretold of his coming. Luke goes on to describe a demonstration of Jesus' priesthood as he blesses the disciples, just before he is carried to heaven. After he has gone the disciples worship him; they worship his unseen presence, as we do today, and they were filled with joy, the same joy that we can be filled with when we let Jesus into our hearts and lives.

When we look next to Acts, we get the same event as the start of a new story, the story of our faith, of our Church spreading over the world. We hear in a lot more detail, Jesus preparing the disciples for their task. For example, we are told Jesus is with them for 40 days after his resurrection, hence Ascension Day is celebrated 40 days after Easter.

But in the Gospel Luke didn't mention any times, in fact you could easily assume Jesus ascended on Easter Sunday. In the Gospel, time isn't important, we are being told our Lord's Story, when he walked this earth, but in Acts, time is important. Luke wants us to know the disciples were prepared, that the message they passed down to us is correct. So he tells us of the 40 days Jesus spent preparing them.

Also in Acts we hear about the time the disciples have to do their work - that Jesus will return at a point known only by the Father. They have only an unknown amount of time to tell everyone, to prepare everyone, for the return of Jesus. It is because of them and the people they told, and the people that they in their turn told, and so on, that over two thousand years later, you come to be sitting here today.

So the story we hear started today in Acts is our story, it's one we will continue tomorrow, and the next day, and the day after that, unless... unless we get another perfect cloudy day. A day when we look up to the clouds and instead of rabbits, or crocodiles we see our Lord coming again in glory.

So until that day, how are we going to add to the story, we are the Church, we are Christ's body, we continue His work. What will be written in the Acts of the disciples of St. Cuthbert's, or St. Anybody, anywhere.

It's our turn now – are you ready? Amen.

Revd. Nicki McNelly

(we pause to listen to a short piece of music for personal reflection)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Please stand

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Please sit or kneel

INTERCESSIONS

As Jesus prayed for his disciples and all who follow Him through the ages, we pray for His church in the world. May all that separates and divides be forgiven and healed, so that Christians unite as one, in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We pray for our church family of St Cuthbert's and give thanks for the leadership and care of Nicki, the ministry of Caroline to our young people, and for Margaret now settling at St Fillan's. We give thanks for the wider episcopal church family and for the guidance and pastoral care of Bishop John. Give him wisdom and strength as he leads those in his care through the stresses and pain of the pandemic.

Lord hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for our broken world, ravaged by the cruelties of the pandemic and the increasingly damaging impact of climate change. Give us hearts of compassion for the poorest that we are generous with our time and money to help those in greatest need. We pray especially for the people of India and ask that world leaders unite to ensure a more rapid and equal distribution of the vaccine. In this Christian Aid Week we pray for all the events and services happening, face to face and online. May they create a sense of connection and joy for churches and communities here in the UK and across the world. We pray that the generosity of Florence Muthiani, whose community in Kenya was transformed by a dam, will inspire others to give and act. 'I am thankful to people who have donated to build this earth dam. I am praying God will increase their giving,' said Florence. And may the spirit of joyful giving transform communities across this nation and the world this Christian Aid Week.

Lord hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for our newly elected politicians, both locally and nationally, and ask for a spirit of unity to heal divisions. Give them wisdom and courage to carry out their duties with honesty and compassion in the best interests of all people, especially the most vulnerable, as they struggle to cope in the pandemic.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for ourselves. May we be encouraged in our faith as we see acts of generosity and compassion shown to one another in our families, community and wider world. May we be inspired by your holy spirit to be witnesses of your transformative love and being united in our desire to serve you.

Lord hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for those we know who are sick, grieving, lonely, afraid. May they know your healing touch.

Heavenly father accept these prayers for the sake of our savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Wendy Pearson

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

As we are not allowed to sing, please reflect on the words of the hymn and enjoy the music as Philip plays the organ.

OFFERTORY HYMN 103 – Christ triumphant, ever reigning

Christ triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King.

Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
hear us as we sing:

*Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, th'eternal name.*

Priestly King, enthroned for ever
high in heaven above!
Sin and death and hell shall never
stifle hymns of love:

*Yours the glory and the crown
the high renown, th'eternal name.*

So, our hearts and voices raising
through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon you gazing,
this shall be our song:

*Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, th'eternal name.*

*Michael Saward (b.1932) ©Michael Saward/Jubilate Hymns
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Please stand

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made;
it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands;
it will become the cup of our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, Author of all being.

Your power sustains, your love restores, our broken world.

You are unceasingly at work, from chaos bringing order and filling emptiness with life.

Christ, raised from the dead, proclaims the dawn of hope.

He lives in us that we may walk in light. Your Spirit is fire in us, your breath is power to purge our sin and warm our hearts to love.

As children of your redeeming purpose, who rejoice that in Jesus our human nature is carried for ever into the glory of heaven, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Please sit

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Lord of all, for by the Cross, eternal life is ours and death is swallowed up in victory. In the first light of Easter glory broke from the tomb and changed the women's sorrow into joy. From the Garden the mystery dawned that he whom they had loved and lost is with us now in every place for ever.

Making himself known in the breaking of the bread, speaking peace to the fearful disciples, welcoming weary fishermen on the shore, he renewed the promise of his presence and of new birth in the Spirit who sets the seal of freedom on your sons and daughters.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, recalling the night of Israel's release, the night in which slaves walked free, at supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks.

He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:

"Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying:

"Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

**We now obey your Son's command.
We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with
them ourselves, a single, holy living sacrifice.**

Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

**Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles and prophets, Saint Cuthbert and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. **Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.
Lord, unite us in this sign.

LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us,
we are bold to say:

**Our Father, who 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And 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.**

COMMUNION

**Lamb of God; you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God; you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God; you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

INVITATION

The gifts of God for the people of God.
All are welcome to receive.

Music for the sharing of Communion.

Please remain in your seat to receive Communion in one form only. The worship leader will bring it to you. Keep your face covering on until the person bringing the wafer has moved away and then you can lift it to eat the wafer.

THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

Give thanks to our gracious God
Whose mercy endures for ever.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal 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.

BLESSING

Christ our king make you faithful and strong to do his will, that you may reign with him in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!
In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

St Cuthbert's Notes

16 May 2021



YouTube:

Join the full service each week online, (recording of the Wednesday service) using this link to our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3iPQOkQiVERjeHZbj2OnBQ>

Sunday Social:

Join us at our weekly 'Sunday Social' - every Sunday on Zoom at 12 noon. You can also join by telephone. If you would like to join, but not sure how, please contact Nicki or Wendy for the details.

Services in Church:

As numbers at each service are limited, booking is required to attend.

Bookings can be made: Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday 10am – 1pm by email: stcuthbertscomms@gmail.com or by telephone: 07305 911986 (if no answer, please leave a message). You will receive an email or telephone call a few days prior to the service to confirm your place. If you are not booked in, you will be unable to attend. Thank you.

Weekly Prayer:

Dear Lord, we pray for those who lead worship in our churches, especially in these difficult times. We pray that they are encouraged and supported by those they serve in the challenging work they have undertaken in your holy name. We thank them for all that they do. May they continue to find strength, energy, wisdom and comfort through you. Amen.