

Holy Innocents Fallowfield



Ascension Day

Thursday May 21st 2020

خوش آمدی

Welcome to Holy Innocents on the Feast of the Ascension.

Today, we keep this short morning devotion of music and prayer.

Then we invite all our congregation who would have attended church this evening to listen to the Eucharist for Ascension Day on BBC Radio 4 at 8pm.

Members of our choir may have contributed to the singing this evening.

"I will not leave you comfortless."

The Ascension narrative from the Acts of the Apostles tells of Christ's 'withdrawing' from his disciples, leaving them, as he ascends to the Father in glory.

From now, until Pentecost, we have a time of prayer and reflection, the time when we are – with those first disciples – waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Each week, members of our church community share their thoughts and prayers through a social media group. One such thought (made as people across the world try to work out how best to respond to the changes that have happened as a result of Covid-19 and which have touched almost every life) called on us all to let hope make us take one more step than fear. The French hymn writers Michel Scouarnec and Jo Akepsimas used this idea as the first line of a powerful song, which reflects on the many ways that human weakness can turn to strength and overcome the trials and tests of this world.

Sung in the original French, the words are shown in English and Farsi as well.

The choir sings:

Hail the day that sees him rise Alleluia! To his throne beyond the skies; Alleluia!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners giv'n, Alleluia! Enters now the highest heav'n! Alleluia!

There for him high triumph waits: Alleluia! Lift your heads, eternal gates; Alleluia!
He has conquered death and sin; Alleluia! Take the King of glory in. Alleluia!

Lord, though parted from our sight, Alleluia! Far beyond the starry height, Alleluia!
Lift our hearts that we may rise Alleluia! One with you beyond the skies: Alleluia!

There we shall with thee remain, Alleluia! Partners of thine endless reign, Alleluia!
There thy face unclouded see, Alleluia! Find our heav'n of heav'ns in thee. Alleluia!

The collect for Ascension Day is said:

*Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that as we believe your only-begotten
Son our Lord Jesus Christ
to have ascended into the heavens,
so we in heart and mind
may also ascend
and with him continually dwell;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.*

At the end: **Amen**

The Ascension Narrative from the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles is read:

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 during 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.

باشد که به درگاه خداوند قادر مطلق دعا کنیم،
باور داشته باشیم که یگانه فرزندت خداوند ما
عیسی مسیح
به آسمانها صعود کرد، چنان که ما در قلب و
خردمان نیز صعود کنیم
و بطور دائم در او ساکن شویم؛
کسی که زنده است و با تو حکومت می کند،
در وحدت روح القدس، خدایی یکتا، تا ابدالابد.

، یعقوب (پسر حلفی)، شمعون (که به او غیور
می گفتند)، یهوذا (پسر یعقوب)، و برادران
عیسی. چند زن از جمله مادر عیسی نیز در
آنجا حضور داشتند. او در مدت چهل روز پس
از مرگ خود، بارها خود را زنده به رسولان
ظاهر ساخت و به طرق گوناگون به ایشان
ثابت کرد که واقعاً زنده شده است. در این
فرصتها، او درباره ملکوت خدا با ایشان سخن
می گفت.
در یکی از این دیدارها بود که عیسی به ایشان
گفت: "از شهر اورشلیم بیرون نروید بلکه
منتظر روح القدس باشید زیرا او همان هدیه ای
است که پدرم وعده اش را داده و من نیز در
باره اش با شما سخن گفتم. "یحیی شما را با آب
تعمید داد ولی تا چند روز دیگر شما با
روح القدس تعمید خواهید یافت."
هنگامی که عیسی با شاگردان بود آنان از او
پرسیدند: "خداوند، آیا در همین زمان است که
حکومت از دست رفته اسرائیل را باز برقرار
خواهی کرد؟" جواب داد: "این زمانها را پدرم
خدا تعیین می کند و دانستن آنها کار شما
نیست. ولی آنچه لازم است بدانید این است که
وقتی روح القدس بر شما نازل شود، قدرت
خواهید یافت تا در "اورشلیم"، در سراسر
"یهودیه"، "سامره"، و تا دورترین نقطه ع دنیا
در باره ع من شهادت دهید."
پس از آنکه عیسی این سخنان را به پایان
رساند، در مقابل چشمان ایشان، بسوی آسمان
بالا رفت و در ابری ناپدید گشت.

While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward 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."

ایشان هنوز به آسمان خیره بودند که ناگهان متوجه شدند دو مرد سفیدپوش در میانشان ایستاده‌اند.
ایشان گفتند: "ای مردان جلیلی، چرا اینجا ایستاده‌اید و به آسمان خیره شده‌اید؟ عیسی به آسمان رفت و همانگونه که رفت، یک روز نیز باز خواهد گشت."

Prayers for Ascension Day:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your Son Jesus Christ was born as one of us, to come to the rescue of our human race.

Look in mercy on all your people, especially in these times of trouble and uncertainty across the world.

In dying for us, he trampled death and conquered sin:

Look in mercy on the nations of the world and their leaders – all who make the choices and decisions that affect the lives of others.

By the glory of his resurrection he opened the way to life eternal

and by his ascension, gives us the sure hope that where he is we may also be.

As we walk on our earthly journey, blessed by the light of the coming spirit, keep us, and all the departed in your timely and everlasting care.

We make our prayers through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Si l'espérance t'a fait
marcher
plus loin que ta peur
Tu auras les yeux levés
Alors tu pourras tenir
Jusqu'au soleil de Dieu*

If hope has made you walk further than your fear, your eyes will be lifted up so that you will be able to hold fast, until the new light of God.

اگر امید باعث شده شما فراتر از ترس خود قدم بردارید
چشمان شما ترفیع می یابد
پس شما قادر خواهید بود که استوار باشید،
تا رسیدن نور جدید خدا.

*Si la colère t'a fait crier
justice pour tous
Tu auras le cœur blessé
Alors tu pourras lutter
Avec les opprimés.*

If anger has made you cry 'Justice for all' You will have a wounded heart so you will be able to fight alongside the oppressed.

اگر عصبانیت باعث شده تا فریاد بزنی "عدالت برای همه"
قلبی زخمی خواهید داشت
پس شما قادر خواهید بود به جنگیدن در کنار مظلومان.

*Si la souffrance t'a fait
pleurer des larmes de
sang,
Tu auras les yeux lavés
Alors tu pourras prier
Avec ton frère en croix.*

If suffering has made you weep tears of blood You will have eyes washed clear, so that you will be able to pray with your brother on the cross.

اگر رنج باعث شده است که شما اشک خون گریه کنید
چشمان شما پاک خواهد شد
پس شما قادر خواهید بود تا دعا کنید
با برادران بر روی صلیب.

*Si la faiblesse t'a fait
tomber au bord du
chemin -
Tu sauras ouvrir tes bras
Alors tu pourras danser
Au rythme du pardon.*

If weakness has made you
fall by the wayside, you
will know how to open
your arms, so that you will
be able to dance to the
rhythm of forgiveness.

اگر ضعف باعث شده که شما
متوقف شوید
شما خواهید دانست که
چگونه بازوهای خود را باز
کنید
پس شما قادر خواهید بود که
برقصید
با مضمون بخشایش.

The blessing for Ascension Day

God the Father, who has given to his Son the name above every name, strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord. Amen.

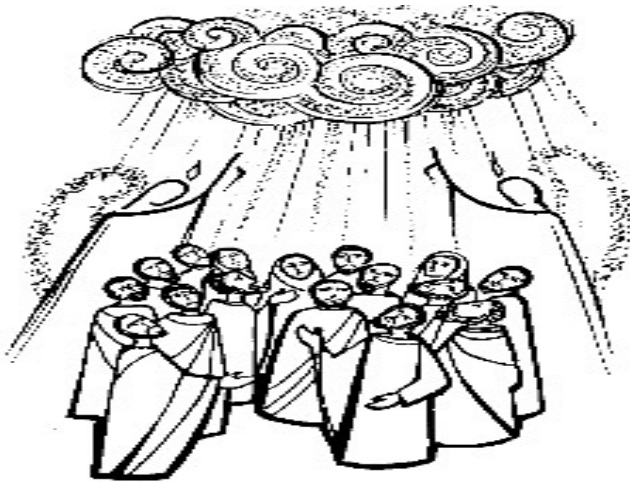
God the Son, who is our great high priest passed into the heavens, plead for you at the right hand of the Father. Amen.

God the Holy Spirit, who pours out his abundant gifts upon the church, make you faithful servants of Christ our King. Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son + and the Holy Spirit, rest upon you and remain with you today and always. Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.



Why do you stand looking up toward heaven?