

An Ascension reflection for worship

God of love we celebrate this festival of Jesus entry into heaven as our Saviour and Lord

Psalm 48: Great is the lord, and most worthy of praise
In the city of our God, his Holy Mountain.
It is beautiful in its loftiness,
The joy of the whole world.

SING: How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him,
(MP 249) who brings good news, good news.
Proclaiming peace.

Pray: Blessing and honour and glory and power!

Our words echo the praise of the psalmists, prophets and angels as you Jesus Christ rise above the limitations of earth to sit for ever on the right hand side of God.

No longer restricted to one place you are seated on the throne of heaven and present in all places.

We praise you our glorious Lord and Saviour
And are forever glad that now there is in heaven, one who understands and intercedes for us.

Though we cannot ascend to where you are
Still raise our hopes and hearts. That our discipleship in this world may be touched with the glory of heaven and our lives be signs and promises of the fullness of the life to come. Amen.

Readings: Luke 24; 44-53 an Acts 1: 1-11

“Sky gazing?”

Why do you all stand there looking up at the sky?” (Acts 1: vs11)
“Because we are stuck in!” we cry. “Or are we?” (we also cry). Whist in some places the messages of lockdown remain in other places and for some people the relaxations feel like the beginning of the end. Or is it a new beginning? Luke’s readings remind us of the Easter period. Good Friday, Holy Week, our Lords death and resurrection and Jesus appearances to the disciples. In Acts Luke now marks the end of Jesus’ physical and historical ministry on earth. The disciples stand gazing into the sky as Jesus “was going”. Was it the beginning of the end for them? Or a new beginning? They sound as confused as we are! Yet he who has been taken “will come in the same way”(vs11.) It is his moving away from the confines of time and space, his physical ministry on earth, that means Jesus will be present always and everywhere. Amidst uncertainties, feelings of beginnings and endings, we ourselves, rather than sky gazing continue this ministry. Christ’s hands and feet, compassion and love to one another and to the world in, “the same way”. Locked down or (perhaps) not.

Pray: God beyond our understanding, we too can be left bewildered and uncertain, unsure of what the future holds as the world around us changes, the familiar disappears and our vision evaporates in the air.

Speak to us gracious God as Jesus spoke to the disciples.
Not to keep to the safe, but to wait for your guidance, the direction of your Spirit.

SING: *Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,*
(R&S 247) *Endless is the victory, thou o’er death has won.*

Amen

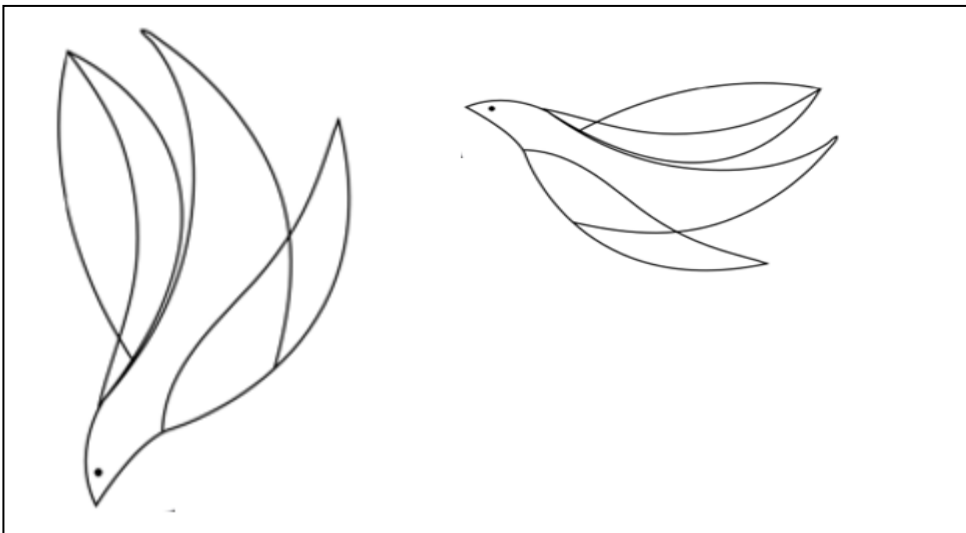
Dove like flame or flame like dove!

Dove and flame prayers

Take each wing and stick to head of dove using three doubled sided sticky squares provided. Add the eye with a pen. Hold upwards as flames or horizontally as a dove.

Or create your own, use this as an example and enclosed wings as template on white paper and colour yourself.

BE CREATIVE.



Telephone Service details. To join the service via

It is simple to access:

Telephone: 03306060403 (await instruction)

Access code (enter) 1529640#

TO Tolworth, Ewell and Epsom pastorate and Ewell Korean Church.

Dear friends.

I am pleased that we have been able to share some worship time together if differently on the telephone. So now I provide a Pentecost service for you to use personally and if you wish join together again for the telephone service on Pentecost Sunday.

For the Pentecost Sunday service I invite you to create a dove like flame or flame like dove for prayers. Hold this with you for the service and keep for our return to the church. Use a double sticky square to keep in prominent place.

We look forward to sharing thoughts, reflection, creativity and prayer during this period and on Pentecost Sunday itself.

On the reverse side of this letter you will also find a private study and reflection for Ascension for 21st May 2020.

For Pentecost Sunday, thanks again to all the contributors who have provided reflections, prayers and readings. The enclosed card is one of several homemade creations made by members of our pastorate.

For those who are young in heart or age there are activities for Pentecost. As we know such activity is worshipful too! It is for everyone.

We remain as one, as the body of Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit in the risen Christ, still apart sharing the love God with all,

Gods blessings for you all, Roger