



The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale



“He is Risen!”

‘Church in the Home’

Edition 10

Sunday May 23rd – Saturday May 30th

From the Vicarage

Thursday was Ascension Day. For the past forty days we have been celebrating the resurrection of Christ, his bursting from the tomb, defeating the power of sin and death and appearing to many witnesses to teach them about the Kingdom of God. The Bible records ten particular occasions where Jesus appeared to individuals, groups and large crowds after his resurrection, but there were probably many more instances as John intimates in his gospel account in chapters 20&21.

Since 2016, ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ has been a global movement of prayer, calling Christians to pray for the ten days between Ascension and Pentecost for family, friends and neighbours, that they might come to place their faith in Jesus Christ. On that first Ascension Day Luke tells us that the disciples returned to Jerusalem and the room in which they were staying and there devoted themselves to prayer and worship whilst they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. They prayed and they waited for things to change. It’s a great opportunity in the church calendar for us to devote ourselves to do the same and we can do this in different ways.

Set aside a regular time each day – perhaps set an alarm – in which you can **pray** for five friends or family members to come to faith in Jesus. During Sunday’s service our children will be invited to take part in an activity which links **prayer with care**. How might we be able to show our care to those around us in a practical way? Pray for the power of the **Holy Spirit** to come into your life in a new way to deepen your relationship with God and for power to be effective in witness. Pray the **Lord’s Prayer** at regular intervals through the day and be mindful of those whose lives you wish God’s Kingdom to break into. **Download** the Thy Kingdom Come app for access to a variety of Morning and Evening prayer services or visit the **website** for a prayer journal or a Family Prayer Adventure Map, music and much, much more. <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

‘Prayer’, as John Wesley so rightly said, ‘is where the action is’, so let’s use this time to pray ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ for our nation and for those we love.

“In praying ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities.”

Archbishop Justin Welby

Rev. Dave.



All creatures of our God and King

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0d3gO6qDLN>

Music from
Terri

With 5 readings this week, music could have filled hours and in our house it often does. It is uplifting and helps in so many situations. Back at the start of Cith, when we were first plunged into these dark times, Sarah used a very powerful hymn, Amazing Grace, praise first was the message and I think this rings true with the readings this week. This hymn sings out praise, praise him with joy and in humility. Don't question the how and when, it is not for us to know, just praise him and trust that we have power in the Holy Spirit, power in Gods name. Amidst all the despair and sorrow we have seen a coming together within communities all over the country, joining together to provide for those in need, giving gifts of time and friendship as well as food and other essentials, there is power in our actions as we honour his name in our caring for one another.

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise him, alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest man both warmth and light,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

And all ye men of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye, alleluia!

Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and on him cast your care,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Source: [Trinity Psalter Hymnal #248](#)

King of Kings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OnfQpZr030>

When it seems to take all the energy you have just to try and stay positive, cast all your cares on God, At his time of suffering Jesus didn't question, he humbled himself to death on the cross, he suffered for his belief knowing that he would be restored and would return in the glory of his father. The readings in Peter speak of casting your anxieties on him because he cares for us, it says that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings but after we have suffered a little while we will be restored by the God of all grace. Don't be tempted to languish in the enormity of the situation, we will be made strong if we stand firm in our praise of God. "To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen."

In the darkness, we were waiting
Without hope, without light
'Til from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfill the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died

Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings

And the morning that You rose
All of Heaven held its breath
'Til that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs

And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored
And the church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel, shall not faint
By His blood and in His name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me, ohh

Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings
Praise forever to the King of Kings



Sunday May 24th Bible Readings:

Acts 1:6-14, 1 Peter 4:12-14, 1 Peter 5:6-11, John 17:1-11, Psalm 68:1-10

Click on this site, type in the reading you want and then listen to David Suchet read it to you.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/suchet/nivuk/Gen.1>

Reflection

In the last few weeks through our readings and reflections, we have dropped in on the events of the early church and noticed the power of God working in the church and through the lives of individuals.

But now we pause and go back to that time of waiting. The disciples waiting with anticipation and quiet excitement, some apprehension uncertainty.

Jesus had said that they should wait in Jerusalem for the coming of the Holy Spirit. What did this mean? They knew the Spirit of God had moved through the lives of people of old. Many of the great prophets in centuries preceding, had foretold of the judgement of God and the promise of redemption. They had survived through times of persecution by the power of the Holy Spirit. But was this to be for them as they 'waited' in Jerusalem? The disciples had heard Jesus talk to them about the Holy Spirit saying that he would not leave them alone and that he would have to go away in order that these events might unfold. Some of them had already experienced God's peace as Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit upon them in the 'locked' room. Peter could probably reflect on his declaration about Jesus. Where the words describing Jesus as the Messiah, 'God breathed' through him. Maybe Nathaniel could see that Philip telling him about Jesus was God inspired. Was the excitement of the two disciples running back from Emmaus a God given emotion? Is this what the Holy Spirit would bring to their lives?

As a group of friends:

They'd gone through the horror of seeing Jesus being arrested and killed

The disbelief and excitement of the resurrection

The comfort and encouragement of meeting with Jesus after his resurrection

Then amazement and bewilderment when Jesus ascended to heaven.

The city would still be buzzing as one festival moved to another (Feast of Passover to Feast of the Harvests). Some visitors may have gone home, other arrived. The temple guards were probably still on their backs, the Romans still officious in their rule. The Holy Spirit was to enter their lives in a dramatic way that we'll see and celebrate in our worship next week. As we reflect on these events, we have the advantage of being able to look back and see the fuller picture. We know how events unfolded. We are aware of the effects of the indwelling Holy Spirit on the lives of these men and women in the early church.

Let us grasp fully what God can do in our lives today. The Holy Spirit gives us confidence in our salvation. He is described by Paul as a 'deposit and guarantee of our inheritance' (2 Cor 5 v 5). He gives us an insight into the mind of God – wisdom and discernment (1 Cor 2 v 6ff). He brings to mind the things that Jesus said (Jn 14 v 25). He gives us peace beyond all understanding and comfort in times of difficulty. The Spirit supports us through times of persecution (1Pet 4 v 12ff). The Holy Spirit enables the 'goodness of God' to grow in our lives (Gal 5 v 22) and enables us to live a Godly life (1 Jn 3 v 16ff). He helps us stand firm and hold fast to God's truth (2 Thess 2 v 13ff). He empowers us with gifts and skills for the task ahead. (1 Cor 12 1-11). He gives us confidence to tell others about Jesus (2 Tim 1 v 7). There is new-found freedom that God has provided for us in the Spirit (Rom 8 v 1ff). We are his children. The Spirit of God helps us in our weakness - he enables us to pray when we are 'lost for words' (Romans 8 v 26ff). The Spirit unites believers together (Phil 2 v 2: Act 2 v 42ff). Isn't there a sense of wonder and amazement when we see what God gives us through his Spirit? Spend time reflecting on these verses and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

I like a poster I saw recently showing a 'Cup Half Full' or 'Cup Half Empty', asking what sort of person we are. Then at the bottom reminding us that with God we have a 'cup that overflows' Ps 23 v 5. Paul charged us to be 'filled with the Spirit' (Eph 5 v 18ff), to let him overflow from our lives, to let him affect and influence others around us. As Jesus said, being 'his witnesses in and to the ends of the earth'.

Circumstances sometimes overwhelm us, but God is bigger, and walked where we've walked. It was necessary for Jesus to live and to die to show us the way into God's heart. In his resurrection he declared victory over all that can bind us, hold us back, cause us to stumble and fall and even over death itself. Paul said, 'for me to live is Christ, to die is gain' (Phil 1 v 21). In his life he knew the strength, power and encouragement of the Holy Spirit. In dying he knew there was an even greater reward.

A phrase that gave great encouragement to a fellowship we were in for some time in Derbyshire was 'Let go and let God'. Sometimes we hold on to situations that we can't handle and emotions that we can't manage, when God is saying just give them over to me. The circumstances don't necessarily go away but our response to them can change.

Let us now accept the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, filling and overflowing, enabling and empowering, quietly comforting and reassuring. Knowing Jesus and the power of his Spirit living in us, we recognize that there is 'no greater thing'. He has not left us alone, but has made available to us the fullness of the Godhead – Father, Son and Holy Spirit and for that we give him thanks and praise.

Mike Hirst



Prayers

O Lord, open thou our lips
And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.
O Lord, make speed to save us
O Lord, make haste to help us

As we worship in our homes this morning, some with family members, some alone, let us pray for the church and for the world, and let us thank God for his goodness.

We pray for the church throughout the world, in this country, and in this benefice, and we thank God for all that is being done for us, by our clergy, by our lay people, though radio and television, through the internet, to keep us linked to the wider Christian community, to nourish us, and to comfort us. Those of us who have no technical skills thank God for those who do. Without them we could not worship as we do at this moment.

We thank God for the good weather, for the sunshine that has lifted our spirits, for the most beautiful spring, for the rain that fell this week. We give thanks for the privilege of living here and pray that in time the restrictions will be eased, so visitors can come here once again and share the beauty we enjoy every day.

O Lord, open thou our lips
And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

We remember before God all who suffer, those who are fighting to survive the corona-virus, those who have died and those who mourn them, especially as, at this time, funeral services have to be short and thinly attended.

We pray for all those working in hospitals, in care-homes and in the community, for all who are comforting the sick and bereaved, for all who are helping their neighbours in so many practical ways. We thank God that this pandemic has opened up new channels of love.

'Where mercy, love and pity dwell, there God is dwelling too.' (William Blake, 'The Divine Image')

We pray for all those who are working tirelessly to produce a vaccine, for our government, faced every day with new challenges, and hard decisions. We pray for the future of our school children. Give those who make the final decisions wisdom and sound judgement. Let this not be a time for divisions and rancour among politicians.

O Lord, make haste to help us,
O Lord, make speed to save us.

This week we celebrated the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven. Let us remember that this was not the end of things and let us cling to the promise of Hebrews,* that Jesus lives for ever, to intercede for us. So let us pray in his name for deliverance from this present darkness, for deliverance for all people, over all the earth. (* Ch 7)

Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts, thou fount of life, thou light of men,
From the best bliss that earth imparts, we turn unfilled to thee again.'

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, AMEN.

Ann Pilling

...This Sunday This Sunday This Sunday This Sunday This

Sunday May 24th
10:30am
'Family Together'



To view this Sunday's service:
Visit the website or
our FaceBook page :
www.upperwensleydalechurch.co.uk
upperwensleydalechurch-cofe

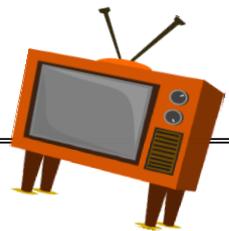


Join the **Global** movement of prayer
May 21st – 31st
Ascension day to Pentecost.

'Thy Kingdom Come' is a global prayer movement involving Christians from more than 172 different countries around the world, to pray for people to come to faith in Jesus Christ.

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities." Archbishop Justin Welby

**TV
Radio**



Worship on the BBC:

Tune into some of the services on TV and Radio.

Sunday: Radio 4 Sunday Worship 8:10 – 8:50am with the Bishop of Sheffield

Radio 3 Choral Evensong 3:00 – 4pm Christ Church Cath. Oxford

Wed: Radio 3 Choral Evensong 3:30 – 4:30pm St David's Cathedral

Sunday BBC1 Worship. Sunday after Ascension 11:45 - 12:15

Bangor Cathedral with Rev Kathy Jones

Songs of Praise 1:15 – 1:50 with Katherine Jenkins

