



St Mary the Virgin, Rickmansworth

The Church of England and The Methodist Church in Partnership

Serving the whole community

Act of Commitment and Pledge to Pray



#PLEDGE2PRAY

Ascension Day 2020

Opening

God is gone up with a merry noise,
And the Lord with the sound of a trumpet!

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Introduction

As we mark the ascension of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ into heaven, we praise God for the truth of the Gospel of Christ handed on to each succeeding generation throughout the ages. We give thanks for the witness of the Apostles who knew Jesus two thousand years ago, for the faithful who bore the light throughout the centuries, for the disciples of our own age – amongst whom we are counted – that bear the light and life of Christ for this present generation today.

Reading: Luke 24.44-53

⁴⁴Jesus said to the disciples, '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.' ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And 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.'

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Act of Commitment

As we give thanks for the faith handed on to us, we commit ourselves to pray for others to come to share this faith too. During the coming period of Ascensiontide, as we pray Thy Kingdom Come as ask that the Spirit of God may flow into the lives of all people, wherever they may be.

As a child of God, called, loved and beloved, will you commit yourself to pray during this period of Ascensiontide for others to come to faith in God, with Jesus as their guide through life?

I will

Prayers

Lord, send your Spirit upon your Church across the world, that it may give witness to your presence in the world.

Thy Kingdom Come

Lord, send your Spirit upon this country, that its inhabitants may know your love.

Thy Kingdom Come

Lord, send your Spirit upon the communities in which we live, that all may know your grace.

Thy Kingdom Come

Lord, send your Spirit upon me, that I may know your strength and give testimony to your love.

Thy Kingdom Come

Lord, send your Spirit upon the people for whom I am pledging to pray, that they may come to know you in their lives, as I know you in mine.

Thy Kingdom Come

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Collect

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.

Amen.

Blessing

Christ our ascended King pour upon you the abundance of his gifts and bring you to 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.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

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