

St Paul's Presbyterian Church [online](#)

'Partners in God's Mission of Love'

'We celebrate life in Christ. Join us on the journey'

Easter 7a, 24th May 2020

Kia Ora, Kia Orana, Talofa lava, Anyoung haseyo, Malo elelei,

Ni hao, Ohayo gozaimasu, Fakaalofa atu!

Nau mai, haere mai, welcome!



Pre-service music: *Ascension Song (Graham Kendrick), Holy Spirit, come*

Lighting our Candle:

As we light this candle

We feel the warmth of your presence

And see the light of your hope

For us and for our world.

Call to Worship:

Today is Ascension Sunday when we celebrate Christ's return to God.

We look up in wonder as he is lifted from us into heaven!

But this is not a time to gaze upward. There is work to be done.

Jesus has entrusted the ministry of God's love to us.

Let's get to work!

Let's make our hearts ready for the task ahead with prayer and praise!

Amen

AMEN!

***Hymn: Lord I lift your name on high**

Lord I lift Your name on high

Lord I love to sing Your praises

I'm so glad You're in my life

I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth

To show the way

From the earth to the cross

My debt to pay

From the cross to the grave

From the grave to the sky

Lord I lift Your name on high

repeat

Telling our story:

Jesus' disciples have been forty days with him after the resurrection. In today's text from Acts 1, there is some tension in the air. Jesus tells the disciples 'Stay in Jerusalem and wait'....but wait for what?

The invitation is to remember an experience in your life in which you experienced both anticipation and apprehension, excitement and anxiety. Maybe you were going to a dance, or travelling to a new place, maybe you have been offered a new job....

Feel the tension between the emotions. What helps you live with that tension and make the best choice you can?

To listen to: The Kingdom of God is justice and peace.

The Kingdom of God is justice and peace
And joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, Lord, and open in us
The gates of your kingdom

Prayers:

God of incredible surprises, as we gaze into the clouds, remind us that we are standing on holy ground. Place our feet on the pathways of peace and hope. Draw our attention from the vision of the Lord rising to the heavens to be with you and help us to focus on the ministries that you would have us do. Keep us ready and willing always to serve you all our days as we turn to you in confession.....

Dear Jesus, cleanse us with your spirit. Refine us. Take away our sin and shame and fill us with beauty and integrity. Help us welcome you into all the dusty corners of our lives. AMEN.

Reading: Acts 1:1 - 11

Response:

Reflection:

***Hymn: The Summons**

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen?
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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Prayer from Corrymeela

God with us and God within us: just because we're all going through it doesn't mean this is normal. Every body's a little stressed out, 'out of our comfort zone.' So we need to find a reserve of patience with ourselves and everyone else. We all could use a bit more compassion, and the time to take a deep breath.

Help us draw out our more tolerant selves, the ones who can cope with this mess.

Give us the space to centre ourselves and find you. At peace. In our midst. Amen.

Offering:

Benediction:

In days of strong faith may we serve God joyfully.

In days of weak faith may we serve God courageously.

In times of happiness may we sense God's smile.

In times of grief may we feel God's tears.

In the midst of failure may we trust God's mercy.

In the midst of success may we give God praise.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

Amen!

***Hymn: 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.

2. 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 His wond'ring eye

At mysteries so bright.

3. Crown Him the Lord of life,

Who triumphed o'er the grave,

Who rose victorious to the strife

For those He came to save.

His glories now we sing,

Who died, and rose on high,

Who died eternal life to bring,

And lives that death may die.

4. Crown Him the Lord of heav'n,
One with the Father known,
One with the Spirit through Him giv'n
From yonder glorious throne,
To Thee be endless praise
For Thou for us hast died;
Be Thou, O Lord, through endless days
Adored and magnified.

5. Crown Him the Lord of years,
The Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For Thou has died for me;
Thy praise shall never never fail
Throughout eternity.

Song: Holy Spirit, come
Holy Spirit come,
Holy Spirit come
Heal our hearts, our lives
Cleanse our thoughts, our minds
Holy Spirit come
Oh come to us

Holy Spirit fall
Holy Spirit fall
Drench us with Your love
Fill our lives with peace
Holy Spirit fall
Oh fall on us

Holy Spirit flow
Holy Spirit flow
Lead us in Your will

Empowered to proclaim
Holy Spirit flow
Oh flow through us

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