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ASCENSION SUNDAY B

16th May 2021

A short act of worship for use in peoples homes while churches are closed.

A Free resource part funded by



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For more information <https://theworshipcloud.com/terms/free-weekly-resource>

Call to Worship

Holy God,
We have come to worship you,
We have come just as we are,
With all our doubts and fears.

May we be inspired by a fresh encounter with you today.

Amen.¹

Hymn: STF 152 - This is the Day - [YouTube](#)

Opening Prayers

A prayer of Thanksgiving.

Lord, we thank you that you came to earth for us, sacrificed yourself for us, died and was buried for our sins.

On this ascension Sunday may we give thanks for the greatest gift of all, your son Jesus.

We give thanks that we know that one day Jesus will return, we thank you that when Jesus ascended into heaven we were not left alone, the Holy Spirit moves through us this day and always.

Amen.

A prayer of Confession.

God of all that ever has been, ever is and ever will be.

We confess that there are times when we have turned away from you and taken the easy way out.

May we know that loving you means some time taking the harder option, but we are assured that you mean us no harm or ill will.

May we be given the strength to face our fears in your name.

Amen.²

Let us now say The Lord's Prayer

¹ Call to Worship written by Tim Baker

² Opening prayers written by Michael Pryke

Readings: Acts 1:1-11 - [Click for Reading](#)

Ephesians 1:15-23 - [Click for Reading](#)

Luke 24:44-53 - [Click for Reading](#)

Reflection and Response

[For a full version of this reflection, written by Rev Dr Christine Dutton, subscribe to The Vine resources by contacting the team on thevine@twelvebaskets.co.uk]

Are we nearly there yet?

Can you remember saying those words as a child or hearing them from children or grandchildren on road trip or a walk?

Are we nearly there yet?

Are we nearly at a date when we will be able to meet our friends? Stay with family? Travel abroad? Sing together in church? Put the kettle on and have a cup of tea together?

We hear the disciples ask the 'are we nearly there yet' question as they question Jesus in Acts 1: vs 6: 'Lord is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?'

What is next for you in your walk with God?

As we think about ascension, you might wish to watch this short clip from the Big Church Sing earlier in the year, featuring a re-telling of the ascension story.

[Watch Video](#)

In the video, we are reminded that the ascension is an invitation to follow Jesus in our everyday lives. How can you be good news to others in your family, your community, your world?

[You might like to make space for people to discuss or reflect on this question.]

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, as you raised Christ from the dead and seated him at your right hand may we know your presence this day.

In particular we pray for those in positions of leadership and power, may that act with mercy and humility and may your will be done through them.

We pray for your church across the world, in particular we pray for those communities who have been persecuted because they pray to you.

May they know your love and touch as they continue to struggle to praise you, Lord grant them strength and knowledge that one day we shall all live in a place of endless praise and worship.

[Pause]

Lord, we come to you. Sometimes closed minded, sometimes doubting your promise. Today open our eyes to you, to your resurrecting love. You suffered for us and so we draw to mind those that we know are suffering today.

Lord, you know all of these people in our hearts and minds. May they know your love and your presence and healing hand with them this day.

God of rejoicing, as the disciples worshipped and returned to Jerusalem with joy in their hearts when you ascended into heaven, let us have joy in our hearts today. Let us go into the streets of our cities and town praising and rejoicing to you, may we always have your joy in our hearts.

Amen.³

Hymn: STF 239 - Sent by the Lord am I - [YouTube](#)

Blessing

You are a person of God,
You are held in the loving arms of a divine Creator,
And you go from this space – from this moment – into a world crying out for love, for hope, for justice.

Amen.⁴

³ Prayers of intercession written by Michael Pryke

⁴ Additional prayers by Tim Baker