

# Mickleover and Dean Street Methodist Churches Service Sheet

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Worship in Mickleover MC is at 10am and on Zoom, with preacher Revd Gill Sharp

Worship in Dean St MC is at 10.30am, with preacher Mr Peter Goddard

Almighty God, as we prepare to worship today, we ask that you will stretch our imaginations to sense the majesty and mystery of your ascension and give us confidence in our praying and hope for the future. Through Jesus, our Lord. **Amen.**

## Hymn StF 77 Give thanks to the Lord

### Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Jesus Christ, mediator and high priest, we praise you for becoming human and for experiencing the joys and sorrows of life, which assures us that you are able to sympathize with us and rejoice with us.

We praise you for the many joys of life:

**for the beauty of creation,  
for your work in this world,  
for the growth of your kingdom,  
for the greatest source of our happiness: the gift of eternal life.**

**Praise be to you, our Lord and Saviour.**

We come, Lord, on this day to confess our lack of trust. While we think of your enduring love and faithfulness and your might and power, we have too often acted as though you are powerless in the face of today's events. Forgive us and help us to live with confidence in your presence today and in hope for life with you forever.

This is the good news: Jesus Christ, the righteous one, gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. **In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

**Reading: Luke 24:44-53**

### Dramatic Reading based on Acts 1

Whoosh! Just like that! Like a rocket, Zooooom, that's how he went! Better than any fireworks I've ever seen! Wheeeee! And we were watching to see where he was going when a cloud came across, and, well, that was it. Gone. Ascended. I didn't want him to go. He'd already left us once, and that was awful. We just didn't know what to do with ourselves, we moped around, fearful for

our lives, fearful for our sanity. I mean, he was our hope, we'd left everything for him. And he had promised that he would never leave us or forsake us. So when he died, what did that mean? Wasn't he who we thought he was? Was he a fake or a fool, or even a fiend? So many questions and doubts. We needed him, he was showing us the way, the way to be human, to live without the legalism of the Pharisees or the rule of the Romans. But it was just those things, the rules and the rule, which caused his death. I just didn't understand.

Then he came back. He came back! Who has ever come back from the dead! (Well, except Lazarus, and that little girl, and... er, well, perhaps I should have trusted him a bit more.) Anyway he rose again just like he said he would. And he gave us convincing proofs he was alive, showing us his wounds and eating fish and everything! I mean, ghosts don't eat fish, do they? And he spoke to us about the Kingdom of God, and it all started to make sense, all that stuff we'd heard before but hadn't really grasped until, well, until he'd died I guess.

One time when we were eating he said "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit."

I got all excited and said "Lord, Lord are you are this time going to restore the Kingdom of Israel?" He looked at me in his way which means "you haven't quite got it yet, have you?" I'm getting used to that look. He said "It's not for you to know the times and dates the Father has set for his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Whoosh! Zoooooom! Gone! Ascended. Before I'd even had chance to ask him what he was going on about. And we are all standing there looking up into the sky like a load of ninnies, when we hear a voice "Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky?" Fair question I guess. They must not have seen the Whoosh! But now I think about it they did look pretty amazing

themselves, all white and shiny, like people from heaven. They said "This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

I looked at my watch and was about to ask if they could give an estimated time of return, but they had already gone. So here we are back in Jerusalem. We are praying and waiting, waiting and praying, and I can't say I'm not excited about the coming of the Holy Spirit, whatever that might be. But to be honest I'd rather Jesus came back himself. I need him. No one knows me like he does. No one shows me God like he does. But I guess even more than that the world needs him. Israel needs to be restored, God's Kingdom needs to come to this world, and Jesus is the only one to do it, I really believe that. But I'm worried that not one Jesus would be enough, its like we need God to send maybe 100 or 1000 little Jesus', going around and spreading his Kingdom. Little Christs, empowered to do his work. We can't do it, we are useless. Come on God, we need your help!

*By Sam Hargreaves from [enqaqeworship.org](http://enqaqeworship.org)*

### Reflection

Look up...what do you see?

When we look up we are not looking at ourselves, we are looking outwards, our focus is on that which lies beyond us. At Jesus' ascension the disciples stood looking up as he ascended into heaven, they were focused on keeping him in their sight for as long as possible, until he disappeared from their view. In the following days they spent their time in prayer until they received the promised Holy Spirit. So we need to be looking outwards (not up at the sky!), but outwards to where God is at work, looking for signs of his kingdom, praying for the Spirit's guidance.

Look down...what do you see?

When we look down we will be looking at some part of ourselves, our focus will be narrowed to where we are, what we are doing, we may be able to see our feet.

Take a moment to reflect on where your sight is focused, and on where your feet have taken you on your journey of faith.

This time between Ascension and Pentecost is a time for prayer for the future, a time of prayer for God's Spirit to come and work in new ways in our lives and the lives of others in our community.

When we pray 'Thy Kingdom come' in the Lord's Prayer it is immediately followed by 'Thy will be done on earth as in heaven', this is an invitation for God to use us to fulfil his will, as we are the ones on earth now.

The hope of the prayer movement 'Thy Kingdom Come' is that everyone who takes part will:

- *Deepen their own relationship with Jesus*
- *Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus*
- *Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness*

Please join in praying Thy Kingdom Come

### Hymn StF 351 In Christ alone

#### Prayers of intercession

*Take time after each phrase to bring your own prayers to God*

Jesus Christ, our mediator, you stand before God, petitioning him on our behalf, so we boldly bring before you our prayers  
**for creation and its care...,  
for the nations of the world...,  
for our nation and its leaders...,  
for this community and those in authority...,  
for the church universal as it works on your behalf...,  
for this local church in its ministry...,  
for persons with particular needs...**  
We pray this in your strong name, Jesus Christ, our mediator and high priest. **Amen.**

*For those present in Mickleover Methodist Church this service will include Holy Communion.*

*For those at home or on Zoom you are invited to join in spiritual communion. Spiritual Communion can be a means of grace. In prayer, we are in fellowship and communion with Christians in every time and place. Spend a few moments in quiet reflection on Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Silence*

Prayer: Jesus, may we each know your presence with us in this moment. Though we are apart may we all grow together in love and in richer, fuller Communion. Make us one with you and with all who love you in every time and place. Help us to feel and to know that we are united as members of your body. Amen.

### The Blessing

*To join the Zoom service by telephone dial 0203 481 5237 and use meeting details below*