



## Stamford Methodist Church and Circuit



### **ASCENSION DAY WORSHIP - SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020 LED BY PHIL JONES AND REV MAUREEN JONES**

#### Introduction and Welcome

The Ascension of Jesus Video *by kind permission of the Lumo Group*

Luke 24: 44-53

**44** He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

**45** Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. **46** He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, **47** and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things. **49** I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

**50** When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. **51** While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. **52** Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. **53** And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

#### Hymn

#### **Crown Him with many crowns**

The Lamb upon His throne  
Hark how the heav'nly 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

Crown Him the Lord of life  
 Who triumphed o'er the grave  
 And rose victorious in 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

Crown Him the Lord of peace  
 Whose power a sceptre sways  
 From pole to pole that wars may cease  
 And all be prayer and praise  
 His reign shall know no end  
 And round His pierced feet  
 Fair flowers of paradise extend  
 Their fragrance ever sweet

Crown Him the Lord of love  
 Behold His hands and side  
 Those wounds yet visible above  
 In beauty glorified  
 All hail Redeemer hail!  
 For Thou hast died for me  
 Thy praise and glory shall not fail  
 Throughout eternity

Loving Lord, loving Lord – of all!

Opening Prayers

Children's Corner – Tulle learns about John Wesley  
 John Wesley Montage Video

Revelation 5: 6-14 - read by Luke Denley

<sup>6</sup> Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the centre of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup> He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. <sup>8</sup> And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals,  
because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God  
persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

<sup>10</sup> You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,  
and they will reign on the earth."

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. <sup>12</sup> In a loud voice they were saying:

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength  
and honour and glory and praise!"

<sup>13</sup> Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be praise and honour and glory and power,  
for ever and ever!"

<sup>14</sup> The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshipped.

## Hymn

Ye servants of God, your master proclaim,  
And publish abroad His wonderful name;  
The name all victorious of Jesus extol,  
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save,  
And still He is nigh, His presence we have;  
The great congregation His triumph shall sing,  
Ascribing salvation to Jesus our king.

Salvation to God, who sits on the throne,  
Let all cry aloud and honour the Son!  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
Fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give Him His right,  
All glory and power, all wisdom and might;  
All honour and blessing, with angels above,  
And thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!

## Sermon

### Prayers for Others/Lord's Prayer – Rev Maureen

Gracious God we thank you for all the ways you have reached out and blessed us. We thank you for your forgiveness and your extravagant love that knows no bounds revealed and made known to us in Jesus Christ and we thank you for your empowering Spirit who comes to guide and help us in making decisions and gives us courage and strength when we are struggling. Lord we know that these gifts of your grace are not just for us but are for all your people everywhere and so we bring to you today those who so desperately need your love.

Loving Lord we pray for people throughout the world whose lives have been turned upside down by the corona virus, we pray for the many families who are grieving the loss of loved ones and we pray for those who are worried and afraid for their loved ones who are very sick with the virus. We thank you for the many people who are putting their lives at risk to care for them in hospital, in care homes and at home. We pray too for those who are feeling very distressed about still being in lock down, separated from family and friends. But we thank you for the thousands of people who are reaching out in love and compassion to help the lonely and all those in need. Bless each and every one for whom we pray.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY – **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

We pray for the many people who are concerned about the economy of our country. Bless our politicians as they seek ways of helping people to return to work in a safe way, and help employers to put into the work place the safety measures necessary for the wellbeing of their employees. We pray for teachers and children who are being encouraged to return to school, and we pray for the teachers and parents who are unsure if it is possible for the children to keep to the safety measures that need to be in place. Give them wisdom to make the right decisions in the best interest for the children.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY-**HEAR OUR PRAYER**

Father forgive us if we have been so concerned about our own needs that we have been neglectful of the needs of others. We pray for those in war torn countries who are constantly living in fear. We pray for those whose homes and livelihoods have been destroyed and we continue to pray for refugees who have escaped to other countries but have not yet found a safe place to stay.

We also pray for the thousands of people who are still living in poverty, who do not have enough to eat, no clean safe water and no affordable medical care. We pray for the people of East Africa whose crops have been destroyed by swarms of locusts and now face months with insufficient food to feed their families. Lord may all those for whom we pray catch a glimpse of your light shining through the darkness, know that you are a God who loves them and shares their pain and from that love draw the strength they need to help them through the days ahead.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY –**HEAR OUR PRAYER**

And finally, Lord, we pray for ourselves that you will meet us at our point of need. Breathe new life into our hearts and fill us with renewed confidence in the power of your love at work in your world, and may that same love be reflected in our lives. We ask these prayers in and through the name of Jesus Christ, our precious Lord and Saviour who taught us to pray saying, Our Father..... AMEN

### Hymn

Meekness and majesty, manhood and deity,  
In perfect harmony, the man who is God.  
Lord of eternity dwells in humanity,  
Kneels in humility and washes our feet.

*O what a mystery, meekness and majesty.  
Bow down and worship  
For this is your God, this is your God.*

Father's pure radiance, perfect in innocence,  
Yet learns obedience to death on a cross.  
Suffering to give us life, conquering through sacrifice,  
And as they crucify prays: 'Father forgive.'

Wisdom unsearchable, God the invisible,  
Love indestructible in frailty appears.  
Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly,  
Lifts our humanity to the heights of His throne.

### Ascension Day Blessing

May Almighty God enlighten the eyes of your heart to see that his Son Jesus Christ ascended far above the heavens that he might fill all things.

May he who ascended into heaven prepare a place for you; that where he is you might also be, to reign with him in glory.

May you who believe, also ascend there in heart and mind and with him continually dwell.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. Amen.

*Music on Finishing*

To thee be endless praise – for thou for us hast died,  
Be thou, O Lord, through endless days!  
O laud and magnify! Crown him with many crowns!  
All praise to Jesus!