



BELMONT UNITING CHURCH

16th May Weekly Newsletter 2021

2021 - THE YEAR OF HOPE

Why is Ascension Day so Important by Daniel Threlfall

Nearly any Christian can tell you why we celebrate Christmas and Easter. But what about the ascension? For centuries, churches observing the Christian calendar commemorate Ascension Day, an event that falls forty days after Easter. The meaning of Ascension Day is obvious from its name. But what is its significance?

Why is Ascension Day so Important?

Christ's ascension is absolutely crucial to know who Christ is and what he did. It is also absolutely important for the daily life of every believer. When Christ ascended into heaven, it wasn't just because he had finished things up, and needed to get back to heaven to rest and unwind. There is more to it than the fact of Christ's departing. Instead, the ascension is of vital importance for the whole of the Christian faith.

1. We know Christ's earthly work was successful.

Christ's birth marked a new epoch in world history. So did his death. So did his resurrection. Like these epochal events, Christ's ascension also marks a massive shift in the course of the world's events. No longer was Christ personally present. Now, he was ascending back to his father. He had predicted that this time would come. Now, it was here. By the act of his ascension, he was providing us with a valuable lesson — everything he came to do was complete. There were no lingering tasks to complete, no final documents that needed to be filed, no last words to be recorded, no more people he had to heal. It was all done. And he could return. This simple fact that the ascension happened is an assurance that his earthly work was, in fact, an entire, complete success.

2. We celebrate the Lord's Supper or Eucharist in anticipation of his return.

Every Christian church celebrates the Lord's Supper, also known as the Eucharist. In this event, we are reminded ourselves of Christ's death and resurrection. Scripture tells us "as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." This celebration is part of our ongoing proclamation of Christ's ascension, in that we observe it continually until Christ returns. By testifying to Christ's death and resurrection, we are also testifying to the importance of his ascension.

3. We are indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

Shortly after he ascended, an enormous spiritual change took place. The huddled group of depressed and timid disciples burst forth in an explosion of miraculous healing, intrepid proclamation, and inspired activity. What brought about this change? The Holy Spirit. As Christ promised, he sent them the Holy Spirit — God's very presence within believers. The coming of the Holy Spirit, which we celebrate at Pentecost, was contingent upon Christ's ascension. Far from being a side effect of the ascension, the Holy Spirit's arrival on the scene depended on Christ's ascended return. Now, with the Spirit's presence in our lives, we are given the task of going and making disciples in this power.

4. We experience Christ's role as High Priest.

If there were no ascension, there would be no "Christ interceding for us" (Romans 8:34) "...who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us." When Paul wrote, he listed in order Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, remarking on the blessing of his intercession on our behalf. What a blessing to know that we have Christ himself interceding on our behalf before God.

5. We yearn for Christ's coming

When Christ ascended, he promised that he would return someday. The period in which we live is a time of looking forward to his return. The first recorded words after Christ ascended came from the angels who came to celebrate the event — "Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." This is a comforting promise that goes with us every day of our lives and inspires our evangelistic action.

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Belmont Uniting Church May Roster 2021



Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
May 16	10.00am	Rev. Kenneth Ralph	S. Jennings	L. Moss	J. Stephens D. Stephens	R. Ferguson	TBA	L. Rankin

Date	Communion	Flowers
May 16	N/A	B. Coomber

Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
May 23	10.00am	Rev. Ikani	Ros Buckwell	D. Zucarro	B. Couper R. Bunting	R. Ferguson	B. Vaitohi	C. Collins

Date	Communion	Flowers
May 23	N/A	C. Collins

Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
May 30	10.00am	Rev. Ikani	J. Ferguson	A. Merritt	E. Wood C. Schaller	R. Ferguson	B. Vaitohi	A. Ingles

Date	Communion	Flowers
May 30	N/A	C. Collins

If for any reason you are unable to attend your rostered duty, please endeavour to swap with anyone & contact the worship leader and the Newsletter Editor too.

Pentecost Sunday
Next Week 23rd May
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Please wear something RED

Morning Tea Roster

May 16th

Aileen & Ray Bunting, Elizabeth Wood

May 23rd

Lorraine & Cliff Rankin, Alwynne
Merritt

May 30th

Glen Coomber, Raye Pearson, Liz Moss



**There will be Morning Tea from our
kitchen after the service this Sunday
May 16th**

Social distancing still applies at our
church service.

Face Masks are still required to be worn
during hymn singing.

Prayer Points For the Week

Dear Heavenly Father, when we are fearful give us the courage and the strength to face the many challenges of today and the weeks ahead. May we truly know that You are our protector and guide.

Dear Lord, at times we are worried, weary or heartbroken and find it difficult to face the future.

Some times we encounter powerful temptations to disobey Your commandments. Help us Lord to turn to You for strength, hope and direction.

Loving God, Your Word is a light unto the world; may we study it, trust it and share it with others. Help us to be worthy witnesses for You as we share the Good News of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Peter Woods



Belmont Uniting Evening Fellowship

Glen Coomber - Guest Speaker

7:30pm Wednesday May 26th

"Calligraphy & Candles" (All Welcome)

Glen will explain Calligraphy and the amazing art work
he does on our Church candles.



Lectionary Readings

May 13 - Ascension Day

Acts 1: 1 - 11

Psalms 47 or 93

Eph 1: 15 - 23

Lk 24: 44 - 53

May 16 - Easter 7

Acts 1: 15 - 17, 21 - 26

Psalms 1

1 Jn 5: 9 - 13

Jn 17: 6 - 19

May 23 - Pentecost

Acts 2: 1 - 21 or Ezek 37: 1 - 14

Psalms 104: 24 - 34, 35b

Rom 8: 22 - 27 or Acts 2: 1 - 21

Jn 15: 26 - 27, 16: 4b - 15

May 30 - Trinity Sunday

Is 6: 1 - 8

Psalms 29

Rom 8: 12 - 17

Jn 3: 1 - 17

NOTICES

The Minister this Sunday will be the Rev. Kenneth Ralph.

Accommodation Project

The Accommodation Project continues. We are supporting one family at present and are about to take on another family. We work with Kelli from the Salvation Army. Kelli is a worker with their Young Parent Outreach Program. The young women they work with have experienced homelessness. The Salvation Army place the families in transitional housing while they await a Department of Housing long term rental house/unit. We offer nine small fortnightly payments to help with bills and a larger single payment when the family move into long term accommodation to help with moving cost and rent in advance.

This is all funded by donations from our congregation. If you would like to support this project financially could you place a donation in an envelope and mark it Accommodation Project and put it in the collection plate. The families we support are very appreciative of our support.

If you would like more information please speak to me or one of the committee members. They are, Fay Costin, Bev and Barrie Dickie, Liz Main, Norma Phillips, Susan Rossiter, Thelma Yates.

Jill Jeffers Convenor

Birthday

Happy Birthday to Jenny Tiglias who was 60 years young on Tuesday 11th May

Farewell

This Sunday May 16th is the last official Sunday Service for our hardworking Treasurer Jeannine Oman and her wonderful family. They've sold their home in Highton and are off on an adventure to live on a big farm at Yambuna halfway between Echuca and Kyabram where Greg will run a timber business. We will miss them all!

Mission & Outreach

A THANKSGIVING SERVICE is being planned by the Mission and Outreach Committee (date still to be determined) when we will receive and dedicate rugs, quilts, beanies and other clothing for distribution to those in need. You are invited to get those knitting needles clicking, if you wish to be involved. Further details will be published in following weeks.

(continued from page 1) 6. We look forward to the place he is preparing for us (John 14:2) I have often wished that Christ could be here on earth right now. Jesus anticipated this desire. That's why we have the Holy Spirit. And perhaps that's also why Jesus left his disciples with these remarks, "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also" (John 14:2) Christ returned to heaven to prepare us a place. Obviously, we don't know what kind of preparations he is making, but we are assured that we have a lot to look forward to.

Fewer and fewer churches are observing the ancient feast days — commemorating such events as Pentecost or Ascension Day. But there is great value in realizing the majestic impact of such events, and how they shape our very lives and define our faith.