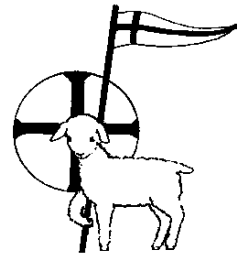


# Church of St John the Baptist, Tisbury

reflecting Jesus Christ



Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020

The Seventh Sunday of Easter  
[The Sunday after Ascension]

From the Revd Juliette Hulme



To celebrate my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday I went with a group of girlfriends to Verona in Northern Italy to see Verdi's opera 'La Traviata' in the Arena theatre. It was a wonderful experience to be sitting in the open air in a Roman amphitheatre enjoying the opera. On one day my friends treated me to a surprise trip by train to Padua to the Scrovegni chapel. It is here that I saw this beautiful painting of Christ's Ascension. The small chapel's walls and vaulted ceiling are covered with frescoes painted by the Italian artist, Giotto, between 1303 and 1305. The chapel is a masterpiece of Western Art with different frescoes, in three tiers, depicting the Life of Christ, the Life of the Virgin Mary, the Prophets and Apostles and the Last Judgment. It was a most beautiful and spiritual experience to gaze at these 700-year-old frescoes bringing Christ's life alive. I have never forgotten it.

Thursday was Ascension Day when we remember and celebrate Christ returning to heaven to be with his Father and also to be ever present to us.

'And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up;  
and a cloud received him out of their sight' *Acts of the Apostles, 1: 9*

In this painting, the light given off by Christ is so bright that the Apostles have to screen their eyes to watch the miraculous event. Two hosts of angels and Old Testament prophets accompany Christ on his ascent.

A Sonnet for Ascension by *Malcolm Guite*

We saw his light break through the cloud of glory  
Whilst we were rooted still in time and place  
As earth became a part of Heaven's story  
And heaven opened to his human face.  
We saw him go and yet we were not parted  
He took us with him to the heart of things  
The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted  
Is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings,  
Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,  
Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,  
Whilst we ourselves become his clouds of witness  
And sing the waning darkness into light,  
His light in us, and ours in him concealed,  
Which all creation waits to see revealed.

My prayers and blessings to you all this Ascensiontide. *Juliette*

**Today at 9.30am**                      **Benefice Communion**

President: The Revd Tina Fox      Preacher: The Revd Dr Graham Southgate

Hymns: *Crown him with many crowns; O thou who camest from above; Christ is the king! O friends rejoice*

**Services during the week are shown overleaf – all welcome!**

**Next Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> May**                      **Pentecost**

9.30am                      Benefice Communion

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00am**      **Children's virtual holiday workshop**

'The Rainbow: God's promise to us all' on Tuesday morning May 26<sup>th</sup> on Zoom. Expect huge fun - songs, worship on Zoom exploring how the Ark came to rest, a fabulous pack of rather messy experiments, activities and challenges based on the Rainbow promise and fun together with the Nadder Valley team. Email [revdjoannaish@gmail.com](mailto:revdjoannaish@gmail.com) for a pack. Everyone welcome.

**Thy Kingdom Come 21<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May**

You are invited to join 'Thy Kingdom Come,' a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray, from Ascension Day to Pentecost, for more people to come to know Jesus. We are not streaming anything for this, but several of us will be praying privately at midday each day and you may wish to join in doing the same in your home. A Prayer Journal has been produced to focus our thoughts and prayers – you can find it online at [www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/prayer-journal-2019](http://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/prayer-journal-2019)

**Thought for the day**

The members of the Nadder Valley ministry team continue to write a 'Thought' each day. These are published on Facebook and appear also on the church website.

**A Prayer for use during the Covid-19 Coronavirus Outbreak**

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**Prayer requests**

We continue to pray for all affected in any way by Covid-19. If there is someone for whom you would particularly like prayer for this or any other reason, please contact either Juliette or Judy (see over). If you would like us to pray for them during one of the online services, please obtain their consent for this. Or we can hold them in our private prayers.

# The Seventh Sunday of Easter

## The Collect

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## The New Testament Reading: Acts 1.6-14

## The Gospel: John 17.1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

'And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.'

## Services online in the Nadder Valley Benefice

You are very welcome to join us online via Zoom for any of our services, using the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84966332040>

Password: 039012

Sundays at 09.30

Mon 08.30, Tues-Thur 08.00, Sat 09.00

Fridays at 08.00

Wednesdays at 10:00

Mon-Sat at 17.30

Benefice Communion (CW)

Morning Prayer

Holy Communion (BCP)

Holy Communion (CW)

Evening Prayer

If you don't have internet access, you can join by phone on 0203 051 2874. The meeting code is 849 6633 2040; you may be asked for the password, too: 039012

Calls are charged at national rate, but they may be included in your telephone package.

The orders of service for Benefice Communion / Holy Communion can be obtained via email from the parish administrator (contact details overleaf).

Orders of service for Morning and Evening Prayer may be found online at <http://tinyurl.com/w8frb6r>

## If you need support

As always, the Revd Juliette Hulme (Parish Priest) is available to give pastoral and spiritual support (see over)

Tisbury Neighbourhood Response may be phoned on 01747 684010

Other useful numbers with trained listeners (calls to these numbers are free):

The Samaritans 116 123

Childline 0800 1111

Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247

Silverline (age 55+) 0800 4 70 80 90