

THE LINK

The Magazine of Portsmouth Methodist Church

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*Week 10 - May 24th 2020 – 7th of Easter – Ascensiontide
Aldersgate Sunday*

Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—his name is the LORD—be exultant before him. (Psalm 68)

Information

You can now listen to John's reflections each week by phoning this number and following the instructions – 02393873759. Charged at local rate.

Also on Thursdays - Joan Mason has put together some shared prayer materials. The suggestion is that people use these materials together following the 'clap for the NHS' on Thursday evening. If you would like to do this please contact Joan on 02392 837338/07711069596 or email at

joanmason71144@yahoo.co.uk

Worship materials 24th May - Opening Prayer

As I come before you God help me to praise your name. Focus my mind on your presence with me and remind me that I am joined together with people around the world worshipping at home. May your name be glorified in our worship. Amen.

Hymn: Hail the day that sees him rise – Hymns&Psalms 197

Let us pray together

Everyday God, We praise you that you are with us in every part of our lives and you never stop loving us.

We praise you for the world you created and the beautiful things we see around us.

We praise you that you came to earth in Jesus to show us in person how much you care about us and the world we live in.

As we remember your ascension we thank you that you did not leave us alone but sent your Spirit so that we can always know you are with us.

You invite us to join in your work of loving people and the planet and we pray that you show us how we can share in your mission of love. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

A Collect for Aldersgate Sunday

God of overwhelming grace,
you ignited the spark of your grace in John and Charles Wesley
and a passion for holiness, justice and sharing your great love
with others.

Warm our hearts that we may trust in you.

Renew our conviction and inspire us to embrace new
opportunities even in difficulty.

Pour out your spirit on your people that we may be united in your
love and ready to share hope with the world through Jesus who
is one with you. Amen

Today's Reading from the New Testament: Acts 1: 6-14

Today's Gospel Reading: John 17: 1-11

Time to Reflect

"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven?"

They hadn't really had a chance to think about it.

Surely it's the most human thing in the world to keep watching the space where someone was, to need to see to be able to believe and start to understand, to need some time to adjust to a huge change in the features of your everyday life?

There has started to be talk in the media about a "new normal". Many of us had already started to experience the creeping realisation that things will not quickly or immediately go back to exactly how they were. Our lives are going to look different for a significant period of time, or for some of us forever if we too have lost people who made up the fabric of our lives.

Jesus' disciples have a promise, of the Holy Spirit to help them, but they don't know when. Like us they must adjust as best they can to the new circumstances of their lives.

I wonder what they understood of the ascension they had witnessed and the prayers they may have heard Jesus utter like the one we read in today's Gospel.

In this Jesus asks that he be glorified, not for himself but for his followers. As Jesus ascends he brings all his human experience with him so that it is known within God. Remember that how ever you are feeling today God is with you.

Jesus asks that God will protect his followers so that they might be united, one as Jesus and the Father are one.

What might we learn about unity and fellowship from our experience of isolation? -How might we draw closer to God and to other people as we emerge into a new normal?

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

God our protector, we come before you in prayer for your world, your children and ourselves.

We pray for the world that you have made. We thank you for the renewal of creation springing up as human activity has been restricted. We pray that we will learn to value these gifts and to live more gently in the future.

We pray for the leaders of nations making impossible decisions on our behalf. We pray that they will speak and act with integrity and protect those who are most vulnerable.

We bring you our sadness at not being able to meet together and we thank you. We bring you our sadness at not being able to meet together and we thank you for the people finding it easier to explore faith at this time. We pray that we will find new ways to reach out to the world.

We pray for the people we miss. Our friends and families and those we long to see face to face. We pray for safety and protection for our loved ones.

We pray for those who have lost someone they love and haven't been able to say goodbye. We pray that they will know the comfort of your loving presence and that you will show us how to reach out in love and friendship.

We pray for ourselves in these difficult days shared by so many people but also lived in isolation. Help us to know your protecting love and to live in the power of your Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

The Lord's prayer

A hymn, chorus, poem that you are familiar with.

A prayer of blessing

Holy God, be with me as I leave this time of worship. May I know your presence in my everyday and live your message of love and hope. **Amen**