



Community News
21 May 2023
ASCENSION DAY



Church Services

Sunday:

8am Holy Communion
9.25am 2 EAR FM
10am Prayer and Praise
6.30pm Worship

Readings:

Acts 1:6-14 (page 884)
Psalm 68:32-35 (page 461)
1Peter 5 (page 986)
John 17:1-11 (879)

Readings

Monday: Psalm 68:1-6; John 16:29-33
Tuesday: Psalm 68:7-14; John 17:1-11
Wednesday: Psalm 68:28-35; John 17:11-19
Thursday: Psalm 16:1-6; John 17:20-26
Friday: Psalm 103:15-22; John 21:15-19
Saturday: Psalm 104:26-32; John 7:37-39
Sunday: Psalm 104:26-36; 1 Corinthians 12:1-13;
John 7:37-52

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to have ascended into the heavens, so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.
Amen.

EMAIL: anglicanbbay@gmail.com

PHONE: 44725822 (Thursday and Friday) or contact Doug on 0428 907200.

DIRECT DEPOSIT: Anglican Investment & Development Fund. BSB: 702 389 Account: 05202562 Ref: AnglicanBBay2562

CHURCH: The church office is open Thursday mornings 9am-12pm and Fridays 9am-3pm.

PARISH CONTACTS:

RECTOR: Doug Newman 0428 907200 dnewman1956@gmail.com

CHAIR: Dennis Hughes 0410 915409

WARDENS: John Ulph 0411 242588 Liz Maidla 44781128 Tony Henderson 0422 099889

OFFICE: Gayleane Overy 0411 091125

WEBSITE: <https://www.anglicanchurchbbay.org.au/>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/batemansbayanglican/>

ANGLICAN NEWS: <http://anglicancg.org.au/news-and-events/anglican-news/>

2023: A year to Stand! Please extend this newsletter to someone to encourage them.

HOUSEKEEPING: Books are available for worship – to avoid multiple people handling them they will remain in the back of the pews. The Common Cup is available for our Communion Worship. **Intinction is not allowed** and we continue to offer individual cups for those who do not wish to use the Common Cup.

Masks: There is no requirement to wear a mask to attend church but you are invited to wear a mask to reduce community risk.

Hand Sanitizing: COVID and Flu remain active – please sanitize your hands and be mindful of each other's space.

CREATIVE WORSHIP: Preparation for Pentecost. Meeting in the church on Tuesday at 1.00pm. Please come along if you are interested. Thank you to those who are working to add a creative edge to our Pentecost services.

ANGLICAN RENEWAL: Join us at church on Saturday for worship and prayer leading into Pentecost from 3.30 – 5.30pm. We will share this time with Anglicans from all across Australia. A light fellowship meal will follow at 5.30pm. All welcome.

PENTECOST RETREAT PODCAST: Join the Retreat Podcast on 29 May,
<https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/anglican-renewal>

WELFARE PANTRY: Thank you to all that have donated to the pantry in the past. The shelves are a little light at the moment, so please when shopping could you purchase one extra item to add to our cupboard. With the cooler weather we need items like chunky soups, noodles, spaghetti etc.

PRAYERS AND PRAISE:

- Continuing prayers for those going through tough times and illnesses.
- Give thanks for answered prayers and healing.

PASTORAL CARE & PRAYER: For support ring Elizabeth Dean 44724330.

LONG TERM PRAYER REQUESTS: Please take time to read our prayer list and ask God for one or two people on it to pray for, not necessarily people you know: Phillipa Shepherd, Veronica Newson, Judy Charman, Dora Coma, Michael Kovacs, Harry Lewis, Ian Oliver, Wendy and Chris Berger, Jay Stewart, Helen Plumb, Marina Vander-Burgh, Keith Sutherland, Iain Ritchie, Rodney Hay, Susan Dean, Robin Hay, Noreen Ralston-Birchall, Ian Overy, Rebecca Coughran, Bob Day, Rachel Harding, Tony Hughes, Jason King, Annette Stewart, Jess Hughes, Judy Stewart, Tommy King, Jonathon and Leticia, Bronwyn Lithgow, Lisa Brookes, Chris Black, Ruby Brown, Jane Wilkinson, Susan Bateman.

Bible Study Answers: Read Acts 1: 6 - 14. What event does this describe? What event does this foreshadow and how are the two events alike? This reading describes Christ's ascension into heaven; the son of man returning to sit at the side of the Father. The ascension narrative reflects the vision of Daniel 7: 13- 14. Jesus has promised his disciples in John 14 and elsewhere that he will return at the end of this age and the two men in white (a common description of angels) tell the disciples that Jesus will return in the same way Matthew 24: 30 describes this return as does John in Revelation. The two events are alike in that the manner of Jesus' ascension will be reversed/ mirrored in how he will return. The text warns us to be ready and that none of us will know the day or the time.

What are disciples instructed to do between these two events? Firstly, to wait in Jerusalem to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and then in the power of the Spirit to witness to Jesus in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the world. This reiterates Luke's gospel 24: 48 and also serves to outline the structure and story of Acts.

What does it mean to you to be a witness to Jesus Christ? To be prepared to witness to God's grace and forgiveness wherever I am and to go where he sends me. To understand and remember that it is

only through the power of the Holy Spirit that my ministry and witness will be effective.

What gave the power and authority to the disciples to be effective witnesses? The Holy Spirit gave them the power and authority and also brought back to mind the experiences of Jesus, such as the transfiguration and ascension that gave them understanding and testimony to speak of challenging things such as the end times. They also drew on the Old Testament scriptures learnt in their youth and expounded to them by Jesus.

Sunday 21 May

Be my witnesses! Jesus said; go and make disciples of all nations but first receive the power of the Holy Spirit to enable you to go in Christ's name and with his power and authority.

Traditional: To God be the Glory

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vbGFupxwu0&ab_channel=ChetValleyChurches

Contemporary: Only a Holy God https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HSdeeCm8_g

Read. Acts 1: 6 – 11 ⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ 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." ⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? 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."

Thoughts: Jesus has ascended to resume his place at the right hand of the father and his promise is that he will, one day, return and take us into the fully realized and recreated Kingdom of God. Jesus intends that the disciples be baptized in the Holy Spirit and then sent forth from Jerusalem to carry his message of love and redemption to the entire world. They will go forth like the 12 and the 72 of the gospels with his power and authority but they will have this power through the presence of the Holy Spirit and they will minister through the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit living in them. They will give the glory to God and declare his majesty.

Songs: Majesty <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OaRwD2Y7C0s>

On that Day <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=McX9SdQS4ml>

Prayers: Almighty God, Your son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord: keep the church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace; and bring all creation to worship at his feet, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Pray for the Holy Spirit to sweep through the church and awaken it to flow forth from its various, ponds, catchments and dams like the mighty river of Ezekiel 47 washing over the land with Living Water. Tell God what you see as needing to change and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what it is in you that needs to change that you might see all around you with Christ's eyes.

Come Holy Spirit and kindle in us the fire of your love. O God who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolations through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A prayer for Peace: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZaHUhGn7smU>

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

Traditional: Crown Him https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuMh_ept-Js

Contemporary: Days of Elijah

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ca9LnzJnpjQ&ab_channel=RobinMarkVEVO

Blessing: Christ our exalted king pour upon you his abundant gifts and bring you to reign with him in glory, and may the blessing of God the father, God the son and God the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you now and forever. Shalom

For reflection on a recent move of the Holy Spirit; Asbury summation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJwQSEihmhQ&t=2s>

Bible Study: Read 1 Corinthians 12: 1 - 13. Can you praise God regardless of your circumstances? Do you trust God enough to open his gifts to you and trust that he has given you the correct gift/s?

What gifts of the Holy Spirit does Paul list? What do you understand these gifts to be or enable the user to do?

Is this a definitive and exhaustive list of the gifts of the Holy Spirit? If it is not what might that mean for our understanding of spiritual gifts? Hint – the rest of this chapter, chapter 14, Romans 12 and Ephesians 4, you may want to make a consolidated list.

Why might the church and some Christians find the gifts of the Spirit problematic for today or consider that they have ceased to function?

What does Paul teach about the purpose and use of the gifts in the congregation and how might the teaching of 1 Corinthians 13 reflect on corporate use of the gifts?