

Sunday May 17th 2015



The United Benefice of Long Crendon, Chearsley & Nether
Winchendon

WELCOME EVERYONE TODAY

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy
in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. **Psalm
16:11**

Pray



O God, our Creator and Redeemer,
May your presence be so real among us
That we may bow in reverence,
Worship with true praise,
Pray with sincere thanksgiving,
And receive from you,
All you desire to impart.
Give us a love for you,
And your truth,
So that we may truly know you
And, by your truth,
We may be made free.

Collect for The Seventh Sunday of Easter
Sunday After the Ascension

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..**

First Reading: Acts 1: 15 – 17, 21 – end



In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) and said, “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus—he was one of our number and shared in this ministry.” Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.” So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.” Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

New Testament Reading: 1 John 5: 9 – 13

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Gospel Reading: John 17: 6 – 19

‘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. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in

the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Meditation

Jesus told his disciples that they must not leave Jerusalem. They must wait for the transforming gift of the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit the church must stay at home and wait, because it is just not worthwhile bothering. With the Holy Spirit things will be remarkable, a total change.

Our Church today is called to proclaim the good news of forgiveness and reconciliation, and the hope of newness that is given voice in the resurrection itself. It is a grand vision of being God's people, God's agents of transformation in the world. The mission of the church here is nothing less than to go into the world as God's people, and proclaim a subversive, transforming message about a suffering God who calls anyone without discrimination to respond.

There is a clear realisation from the very beginning that we simply cannot do what God has called us to do on any level without God's help. That enabling power for which the disciples are told to wait is not something they can generate or make happen by their own efforts. It is a gift of God, in his own time and in his own way. Perhaps on this Sunday after Ascension, we can remember that the church cannot be the church without the power of the Holy Spirit enabling Jesus' followers to carry out their task as witnesses. Jesus makes it clear that the church is the church only when it has waited until it has been clothed with power from on high.

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

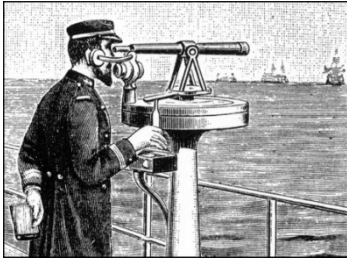
Services TODAY May 17 **Easter 7: Sunday After Ascension**

8.00am	Holy Communion	Long Crendon	JW
10.30am	Family Service	Long Crendon	RC
9.00am	Holy Communion	Chearsley	JW
10.00am	Family Service	Nether Winchendon	JW
12.00pm	Holy Baptism	Chearsley	JW
3.00pm	Holy Baptism	Long Crendon	JW

Services Next Week: May 24th

Pentecost

8.00 am	Holy Communion	Long Crendon	JW
10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	Long Crendon	JW
10.00 am	Family Service	Chearsley	JS
6.00pm	Evensong	Nether Winchendon	Tbc



LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday May 31st: Trinity Sunday

A United Benefice Service at St. Nicholas,
Nether Winchendon. NO, services at Long
Crendon or Chearsley.



You are not only risen and alive, you are Lord.

This is your ascension, your ascendancy over the whole universe.

You stand over and above all that is best in life as its source.

You stand above all that is worst as ultimate victor.

You stand above all powers and authorities as judge.

You stand above all failure and weakness and sin as forgiveness and love.

You alone are worthy of total allegiance, total commitment.

You are Lord 'My Lord and my God' *Rex Chapman*

A Thought

Joy may be expressed in laughter, yet it draws from a deep spring that keeps flowing long after transient laughter has died. Joy survives the fleeting happiness of this world, and overcomes the tears of our too short lives, because it trusts in the promise of the world to come. Joy enables us to be cheerful even when the world has become tired and grey with grief and worry.



As the hand is made for holding and the eye for seeing, you have created me for joy, O God. Share with me in finding that joy everywhere: in the violet's beauty, in the lark's melody, in the child's face, in a mother's love, in the purity of Jesus. *Traditional Scottish Gaelic Prayer*