

Christ Church Freemantle

Thursday 21st May; Ascension Day

Greetings on this Ascension Day 2020!

There are several things I have missed terribly during the lockdown. The first is Holy Communion – the Eucharist. I'm missing gathering together with you all at Christ Church to celebrate the mysteries of the sacrament TOGETHER. And the other really important thing I've missed is singing hymns together, especially all those glorious Easter hymns. I've been singing them at home day by day, but it just isn't the same as singing them with you, accompanied by Craig at the organ. I realise how much I had been taking for granted. I suppose we never realise what we've got until we lose it!

I remember from my childhood that Radio 4 – well I suppose that then it was the Home Service – used to play the first verse of 'Hail the day that sees him rise' before the 8.00 am news on Ascension Day. It's by my favourite hymn writer Charles Wesley (well ok others had a hand in it too) and I offer it to you as a meditation on our Lord's glorious Ascension. Please note the joyful Alleluias at the end of each line and keep singing Alleluia loudly and often!!

Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia,
to his throne above the skies; Alleluia,
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, Alleluia,
enters now the highest heaven. Alleluia!

There for him high triumph waits; Alleluia,
lift your heads eternal gates. Alleluia,
He hath conquered death and sin; Alleluia,
take the King of Glory in. Alleluia!

Lo, the heaven its Lord receives, Alleluia,
yet he loves the earth he leaves; Alleluia,
though returning to his throne, Alleluia,
still he calls mankind his own. Alleluia!



See, he lifts his hands above; Alleluia,
see, he shews the prints of love; Alleluia,
hark, his gracious lips bestow Alleluia,
blessings on his church below. Alleluia!

Still for us he intercedes, Alleluia,
his prevailing death he pleads; Alleluia,
near himself prepares our place, Alleluia,
he, the first-fruits of our race. Alleluia!

Lord, though parted from our sight, Alleluia,
far above the starry height, Alleluia,
grant our hearts may thither rise, Alleluia,
seeking thee above the skies. Alleluia!

Eileen Wetherell