

## Ascension Day 2024 Second Sunday Service

- Welcome – Lila McShannon (Joe and Sarah – Brownie Leader at St. L)  
*Annie Hallet and Amanda Eamer have connections...*
- Small people welcome – loos – colouring activity in CC Chapel
- Refreshments afterwards in the Church Hall
- Communions / Blessings –
- Birthdays
- A question to ponder – what’s the strangest thing Jesus ever said?
- Malawi video

**A strange story** – and not just because of the special effects. The difficulty of *imagining* the Ascension – the story of the Soviet cosmonaut.

Anyway: Jesus rises from the dead. He comes back. He gets the disciples back together again, he shows them his wounds, he eats the fish. What next?

Surely, now’s the time to go see Caipahas. To go see Pilate. ‘I’m back! Did you miss me?’

And he doesn’t. He spends a little time teaching his friends – and then he goes away again.

He comes back, to go away.

And in John’s Gospel he says: it is too your advantage that I go away. It is to your advantage that I go away – possibly the most bizarrely challenging of Jesus’ statements.

### **Where’s he gone? Where he is right now?**

Wrapped in a cloud – for the Bible that always means right into the presence of God. Right into the heart of God.

He goes right into the heart of God. In another biblical image, he goes right into the throne-room of God, right onto the throne – seated at the right hand of God the Father.

## **And what's he doing there? What's he doing right now?**

The Bible says, he's praying for us. He's praying for us.

And what is his prayer?

Jesus wants each one of our lives to be filled with joy and love and goodness, for us to be all that God made us to be.

He wants us to be free of all the sadness, all the misery, all the mess we make of ourselves.

And when he stands before his Father, that's the great longing in his heart. That we might be good. Be free. Be like him.

Think of that when you're feeling sad and weary and small: Jesus Christ wants you. Jesus Christ is praying for you, right now. He wants the very best for you, for you to be filled with glory.

And that's the point of this, with the bread and the wine. It's a sign of Him pouring Himself into us. It's even more than a sign, it's the beginning of it really happening.

We are going to be filled with Him, made one with Him, and it begins now.

## **NOTICES**

- Banns
- Spark – last Sunday of May, 3.30 for 4
- Pentecost next week – Choral Evensong at 5pm