



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

24 May 2020

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Acts 1:1-14 (NIV)

Jesus Taken Up Into Heaven

¹ In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

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."

Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

¹² Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city.

¹³ When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

¹⁴ They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Acts 1 : 6 - 14

This passage starts out with the disciples speaking with Jesus, and still expecting that Jesus will "restore sovereignty to Israel".

In other words, they just don't want to hear that Jesus has a different agenda to what the Jews have expected from the Messiah for millennia.

Despite spending so long with Jesus, the disciples still expected Jesus to establish an earthly empire. And then, Jesus ascended into heaven, right in front of them.

To say that they must have been surprised would be an understatement!

They must have been asking each other, "What next?"

What they chose to do next was to pray.... constantly. They prayed together. They prayed with other people. I imagine that they would each have prayed alone too.

Slowly the answers started to emerge.

Slowly the disciples found new strength and new purpose.

Slowly they realised what they were being called to do.

We each face difficult and challenging circumstances at times.

Prayer can provide the way ahead for us too, just as it did for the earliest Christians.

Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

Psalms 68:1-10, 32 35

I Peter 4:12-14, 5: 5 - 11

John 17:1-11



The longer we live the more we learn it is not who has the most - it is who makes the most of what they have. ~ anon

26 May ~ Bill Forrester



Better a diamond with a flaw than a pebble without. ~ Confucius

PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Pastoral Care: Meg Mangan 0466 337 005

Elders: Margaret Crowell Ross Davidson Bruce Jarrett



.... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



IN OUR PRAYERS

- Judith Watts died a few weeks ago, but due to the Alblas Hostel, we were unaware. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family members, and many friends.
- We pray for Phyll's sister Gwen, who recently had a fall, and broke her wrist.
- We continue to pray for Peter and Beth Scorgie.
- We pray for everyone whose operations, and test results have been delayed by Covid19.
- We pray that world leaders will show good judgement and common sense as they continue to be faced with a changed world.

The aging process
is a lot like grapes,
Some turn to vinegar
But the best turn
to wine ~ anon



"Everyone enjoys being acknowledged and appreciated. Sometimes even the simplest act of gratitude can change someone's entire day. Take the time to recognize and value the people around you and appreciate those who make a difference in your lives." ~ Roy T. Bennett

The Ascension of Jesus

While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. Luke 24:51 (NIV)
Based on Luke 24:44-53



B T Q O M D Q S U F F E R U F
 F N C Q W O P S A L M S T S A
 G X N Q O F S M Z Z H N U C O
 B B Y C R O T E C M E T N R J
 R A P R S R S P S P F E C I A
 N I G Y H G U P E G K D L P S
 Z F S F I I M R N A N W D T P
 B J Z E P V F S T A Y E E U O
 X L K R E E G J T Q L H J R H
 E T E U D N X S Y L P D U E T
 E S X S E K R K I O E A M M P
 J S X V S E W F R N D X I C H
 A X A B D I L P E U V V N O R
 D E C N K U N P L F J S D Q S
 H R U I F H O G G V Y K S L C

RISE	REPENT	PROPHETS	TAKEN
SUFFER	PSALLMS	OPENED	FORGIVE
HEAVEN	SCRIPTURE	MOSES	FULFILLED
MINDS	BLESSING	MINDS	UNDERSTAND



Meg's Musings

As I look out at my garden, or walk around in it, I am enjoying lots of different plants at the moment.
 The Mexican Sage is looking vivid, with its purple spikes standing out against the green foliage.
 In contrast the Lavender, also purple, is pale with silvery leaves. But what it lacks in vibrance it makes up for with its' perfume.
 The Chrysanthemums are yellow and bright orange, the colours of autumn foliage.
 A Rose or two is blooming, not profusely as in early spring - but each one can be appreciated for itself.
 The golden blooms of the "Passionfruit plant" add brightness to the garden, and a distinctive aroma if I brush past it.
 The Pansies are just establishing themselves, and are bright spots of colour.
 Jonquils are looking as though they will burst into bloom at any moment, and I'm looking forward to their cheerful golden blooms.
 None of these plants competes with the others. Each has a place in the garden, and each is valued for itself.
 What do you value about the people whose company you enjoy?

Blessings from Meg



Everyone of us needs to show how much we care for each other and, in the process, care for ourselves. ~ Princess Diana

"PEOPLE WILL FORGET
 WHAT YOU SAID, PEOPLE
 WILL FORGET WHAT YOU
 DID, BUT PEOPLE WILL
 NEVER FORGET HOW YOU
 MADE THEM FEEL"

~ Maya Angelou



Smart enough to know better, old enough not to care. ~ anon

.... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus