

# TRINITY NEWS

## The Ascension Outside Jerusalem, Transcending History

**T**he Ascension of Christ is an observation in history and out of it. A strange figure stands in the midst of a small group of people. He had walked with them from Jerusalem to Bethany. He recalled what had happened to him over the past six weeks. He had told them, "You are witnesses of these things." He was no Stranger to them, but he was a Stranger on earth, though deeply human. Then he tells them that they will still be connected to him by the power of God's Spirit. He blesses them, lifting his hands palms upward to heaven and in the blessing he withdraws from them into heaven.

The account of the Ascension in Acts 1:6-11 mentions the cloud of God's presence and puts the accent on the 'gazing' and 'sight' and 'watching' of the disciples. We too are witnesses and we watch and wonder.

Jesus takes his transformed humanity into God. He has gone before us to 'prepare a place' for us. "Christ's Ascension" says St. Leo, "is our own ascension; we have the hope of one day being where our glorious Head has preceded our own (spiritual) body." Christ's transformed body is a model for our transformation. He beckons us on to follow him into a transformed life. This can be 'taken up' at any moment. Years of mutterings about past wrongs, clinging to dishonest relationships long after they have been emptied of love and respect, and blaming others when the seeds of transformation are waiting to bloom in us can put off realizing our destiny and our joy in living out God's plan for us.

The Ascension offers the hope of transformation in a shared journey with Christ that rises above so much that holds us back. It takes great courage to drop the pretence and let the love of God penetrate our souls and lift us up into the fullness of the name we bear and fulfill the promise of the Spirit that we carry in our hearts.

The Ascension lifts us up out of history and drops us back into its toils, refreshed for all that is to come.

**Bishop Arthur Jones**

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1st June 2014

## FROM THE WARDENS.

The process regarding the extension of Bishop Jones' tenure had been completed with the receipt of the letter from Bishop Dixie Taclobao affirming the extension of his term to end of December, 2016.

In the meantime, the vestry will scout for a suitable assistant reporting to Bishop Jones to help in carrying out the pastoral duties and ministry at the Holy Trinity Church.

Fr. Melvin will continue to assist in our Sunday services.

Thank you all for your encouragement and support in this undertaking.

**Esther Tan, Senior Warden**

**Lance Masters, Rector's Warden**

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### **THIS WEEK:**

**June 4, Wednesday. Bible Study, 10:00am**

### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**

**Acts 2:1-11 Psalm 104 *or* Psalm 33; 1 Corinthians 12:4-13**

**John 20:19-23 *or* John 14:8-17**

### **TO PLAN:**

**June 15, Trinity Sunday. one (1) service only at 9:00 a.m.**