

# ST PAUL'S CHURCH

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Acts 1:8

24 May 2020

# Welcome

**We hope you will feel at home and be refreshed and renewed by the worship and teaching today.**

## **Sunday after Ascension Day**

Eternal God, the King of Glory, you have exalted your only Son with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven. Leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where Christ is gone before, and where with you and the Holy Spirit he is worshipped and glorified, now and for ever. Amen.

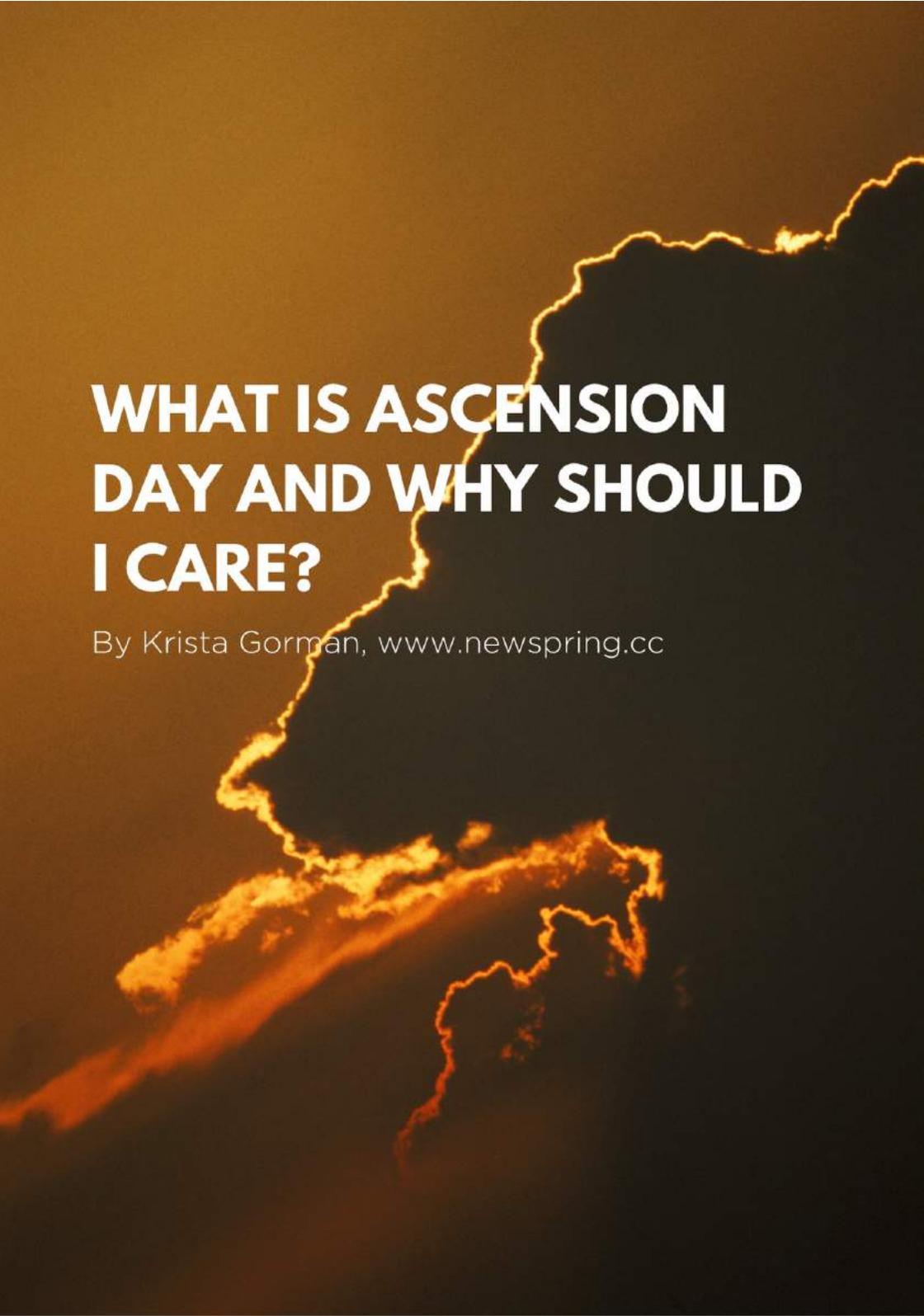
## **Scripture Readings**

**First Reading:** Acts 1:1-11

**Second Reading:** Luke 24:44-53

## **Today's Sermon**

The Significance of the Ascension  
by Rev Jeremy Ponniah



# **WHAT IS ASCENSION DAY AND WHY SHOULD I CARE?**

By Krista Gorman, [www.newspring.cc](http://www.newspring.cc)

Churches around the world will celebrate Ascension Day. Depending on the denomination you grew up in, you may have heard this word before, but don't know what it means exactly. Ascension Day represents so much more than church traditions and religious responsibilities, it represents the gift of eternity.

It is hard to see glimpses of eternity while we are feeding our kids, cleaning our house, or on that daily work grind. But God wants us to be reminded of the hope He has given us through the eternal life He has promised us.

Friends, don't let your focus on your current circumstances and day-to-day responsibilities distract you from the most important reminder — our eternal hope is found in Jesus.

## **What Is the Ascension?**

After Jesus' resurrection from the grave, He appeared to His disciples and others over 40 days. During this time, Jesus taught on the kingdom of God and the future of His ministry (Acts 1:1-3).

Then, Jesus promised the disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit, saying, "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:4-5).

After this, Jesus blesses his followers and ascends into heaven (Luke 24:50). As the disciples see Jesus rise up into heaven, a cloud hid Him from their sight. Then, two angels appeared and gave the disciples a promise: "'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'" (Acts 1:11).

Jesus didn't forget about us when He got back to heaven. The Bible gives us insight into what Jesus has been up to since He left earth:

He is preparing a place for us to spend eternity with Him (John 14:1-4).

He is interceding in our lives (Hebrews 7:25).

He continually forgives us and makes us new (Hebrews 10:10-14).

# Why Hasn't Jesus Come Back Yet?

Jesus does not see time the way we do here. 2 Peter 3:8 reminds us that "With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day."

We will never know the exact time or date when Jesus will return. But we shouldn't confuse what we consider slowness with laziness or disregard. Every day that Jesus doesn't return is an opportunity for someone to be saved and join Him in heaven. 2 Peter goes on to remind us of this saying, "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief" (2 Peter 3:9-10).

Don't lose hope when there is so much hope to be found in forever with Jesus! Every day, we are one step closer to spending eternity with Jesus. So let's re-adjust our focus to the hope we have for an eternal life with Jesus, and "since [we] are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless, and at peace with him" (2 Peter 3:14).

# Questions

For individual reflection, family devotion  
or cell group discussion



1. The disciples had wrong expectations that the resurrected Jesus would remain on earth to restore the kingdom to Israel. Reflect and share how their expectations contrast with God's plan for the establishment of His kingdom? (Note: Contrast Acts 1:6 with Acts 1:8)
2. The ascension marks the transition from Jesus' earthly ministry to his heavenly ministry. How would you describe Jesus' heavenly ministry and its impact on you?
3. The visible and bodily ascension of Jesus provides a link between our fallen world and the new creation. Reflect and share on this linkage and the hope that the ascension gives us for the future.

# Memory Verses

1

## Our Vision

**To be Ambassadors for Christ in the Community**

### **2 Corinthians 5:20**

Therefore, we are Ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2

## First Pillar

**Being Spirit-Filled**

### **Galatians 5:16**

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

3

## Second Pillar

**Imitating Christ**

### **Luke 9:23**

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

4

## Third Pillar

**Persevering Prayer**

### **Colossians 4:2**

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

A hand holding a Bible, with other Bibles visible in the background, all set against a dark, textured background.

# *Online Synchronised Prayer*

**FRIDAY, 29 MAY, 8PM TO 9PM**

We will be doing something different for our synchronised prayer this month. Join us as we go LIVE on YouTube with members of SPC to pray for the world, church, family and friends.



DIOCESE OF SINGAPORE



COMBINED

# Pentecost

SERVICE

31 MAY, 10.30 AM

SPEAKERS: BISHOP RENNIS PONNIAH  
AND BISHOP-DESIGNATE REVD CANON DR TITUS CHUNG

Message will be translated to Mandarin and Tamil.

# Online Service

## 31 May, 10.30 am

### **Speakers:**

Bishop Rennis Ponniah & Bishop-Designate Revd  
Canon Dr Titus Chung

Join us for an online service which connects the whole diocese across our 7 nations and across our major language groups. It will be a service that expresses our oneness as the body of Christ and a service in which we are praying for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit for the times we are in.

### **What we want to see happen this coming Pentecost:**

- God's victory over COVID-19.
- People coming to faith in Jesus Christ through our personal testimonies and online services.
- The Diocese, and the Church all over the world, rising up with a new heart for God and a new power to touch a lost and fearful world with the love of Christ!

Only the Holy Spirit can make that happen! So let us pray beseechingly and prepare our hearts and homes for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on 31st May.

A person with long, dark hair is shown from the back, wearing a dark t-shirt. Two hands are placed on their shoulders, one on the left and one on the right, suggesting a comforting or supportive gesture. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

# Pastoral Care

For those who require prayer or pastoral care, do drop us an email at [contact@stpaulschurch.org.sg](mailto:contact@stpaulschurch.org.sg) or contact the respective pastoral staff directly.

**Rev Jeremy: 9477 5476**

**Pastor Leon: 9199 3815**

**Pastor Shalini: 9857 0023**

**Pastor Leroy: 9710 2900**

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

# ONLINE GIVING



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Please indicate "S2" under Reference No. The code "S2" refers to the English Congregation. Other information like specific giving (e.g. mission, building, etc.) as needed. Names are optional.



## GIVE BY CHEQUE

Made payable to "St Paul's Church" and mailed to our Church address - 843 Upper Serangoon Road Singapore 534683. Kindly indicate English Congregation at the back of the cheque.