



ST STEPHEN'S UNITING CHURCH

197 Macquarie St, Sydney

An Oasis of Christian Worship, Thought and Action

Minister:Position Vacant
Director of Music:Mark Quarmby
Choral Conductor:Dr David Hood
Organ Scholar:Position Vacant



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www.ssms.org.au

17 May 2015 – 10 am

MORNING WORSHIP

Easter 7

Sunday after Ascension

Guest Worship Leader and Preacher: Allan Blyth

The Gathering of the People of God

Organ Prelude

Prière du Christ montant vers son Père (L'Ascension)
[Prayer of Christ ascending to his father]

Olivier Messiaen (1908 - 1992)

Please stand at the entry of the choir and clergy and remain standing for the...

Greeting

The grace of our risen and ascended Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Call to Worship

Hymn 228 *Crown Him with many Crowns* (Diademata)

The Beatitudes

When Jesus saw the crowds, he ... taught them, saying:

- 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
- 4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- 5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.**
- 6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- 7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.**
- 8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- 9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.**
- 10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, **for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Mt 5:1-10 NRSV)**

Part of Jesus’ John 17 Prayer

20 “I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, **21** that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

...This is the Gospel. **Thanks be to God.**

Doxology 147 *To God be the glory* (To God be the glory)



To God be the glo - ry, great things he has done! So



loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yeild - ed his



life in a - tone-ment for sin and op - ened the life-gate that



all may go in. *Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!* Let the



earth hear his voice! *Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!* Let the



peo - ple re - joice! O come to the Fath - er, through Je - sus the



Son, and give him the glo - ry great things he has done!

Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Congregational greeting and welcome to visitors and newcomers

The Service of the Word

Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet:

A light to our path.

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11, 15-17, 21-26

1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning **2** until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. **3** After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. **4** While staying[a] with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; **5** for John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” **6** So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” **7** He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy

Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” **9** When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. **10** While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. **11** They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

15 In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, **16** "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— **17** for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.”

21 So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, **22** beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us— one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." **23** So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. **24** Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen **25** to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." **26** And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Anthem

A Choral Hymn for Ascensiontide

*Text: Edward Perronet (1726 - 92) and
John Rippon (1751 - 1826)*

Music: Henry Ley (1887 - 1962)

All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown Him Lord of all.

Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God,
Who from His altar call;
Praise Him whose way of pain ye trod,
and crown Him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
ye ransomed from the Fall,
hail Him who saves you by His grace,
and crown Him Lord of all.

Hail Him, ye heirs of David's line,
whom David Lord did call;
The God incarnate Man Divine;
and crown Him Lord of all.

Let every tribe and every tongue
before Him prostrate fall;
And shout in universal song
the crownèd Lord of all. Amen.

Second Reading

1 John 5: 9-13

9 If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. **10** Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. **11** And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. **12** Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. **13** I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Gospel Reading

St John 17: 6-19

6 "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. **7** Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; **8** for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. **9** I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. **10** All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. **11** And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. **12** While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. **13** But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they

may have my joy made complete in themselves. **14** I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. **15** I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. **16** They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. **17** Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. **18** As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. **19** And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

May your word live in us:

And bear much fruit to your glory.

Hymn 526 *Lord Jesus Christ* (Living Lord)

Sermon *Jesus Prays*

Hymn 568 *O for a Heart* (Lloyd)

Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Offering

Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering.

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 459

In Christ there is no East or West
(Tune: St Peter 485)

Blessing

.... to God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time, forever and ever! **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ.

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude

Heut' triumphieret Gottes Sohn BWV 630

[Today God's Son triumphs - choral prelude for Ascension]

J S Bach (1685 - 1750)

Adapted from *Uniting in Worship 2* (2005)
Bible Readings taken from the *New Revised Standard Version* (1989)