



## From Our Vicar

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### **From Ascension to Glory** Acts 1.1-11, Ephesians 1.15-23

What do we make of the ascension of Jesus? We know that heaven is not necessarily a geographical place in the clouds. Yuri Gagarin made much of that in his maiden space flight: 'I looked and looked and didn't see God.'

Yet Jesus' disciples witnessed Jesus rising from the earth into the clouds.

Jesus had explained that he was returning to the Father to prepare a place for his followers and that he would return and bring them to himself. Two angels confirmed this.

We also read on the lips of Jesus at his trial, and from Stephen, the vision of Jesus sitting at the right hand of God. In fact, Stephen saw him standing, suggesting a posture of honouring this courageous martyr. Acts 7:56

Paul similarly describes Jesus as at the right hand of God, the place of authority, where he has received from the Father all authority over all powers, titles and principalities, in heaven and on earth, present and future - for the church! Ephesians 1:20

This is wonderful assurance for us, instilling confidence for our witness to Christ and in overcoming the wiles of the enemy. We are furthermore empowered by the Holy Spirit who would come, Jesus said, after he had returned to the Father. From that place of authority Jesus sends ministry gifts to his church to equip the saints for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:8,1-13). This work is variously described as being ministers of reconciliation, destroying the works of the devil, to be his hands and feet in care for the poor and oppressed, to heal the sick and deliver people from the devil's darkness. We are never alone, as Jesus assured his followers. Jesus prays for us, interceding at God's right hand for us.

So on earth Jesus was physically with his disciples. From heaven we have Jesus interceding for us, and through Pentecost we have Jesus in us – through the Holy Spirit.

This is grounds for great comfort, confidence, and hope in our pilgrimage.

It also calls for praise for the one whose name is above every other name, since at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Why not start now?

God bless,  
*Wayne*