# Lifting our souls, Trusting in God

LENT AND EASTER COURSE FROM THE DIOCESE OF ABERDEEN AND ORKNEY

**John 17:1-11**

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

“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. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; 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. 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. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. 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.”

## COLLECT

Almighty God, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven. Mercifully give us faith to know that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Trinity Church, Boston - Peacocks

*""Part of what [Ascension] means is that all the stuff that mattered about God becoming one of us still matters. His whole self, divine and human, ascends to the Father, and so Jesus is still God for us, fully God and fully human."*
*– Beth Felker Jones*

*"While in heaven he is also with us; and we while on earth are with him." – Augustine of Hippo*

*"Lord beyond our mortal sight, Alleluia*
*raise our hearts to reach thy height, Alleluia*
*there thy face unclouded see, Alleluia*
*find our heaven of heavens in thee, Alleluia."*
*– Charles Wesley*

The Gospel for the Seventh Sunday of Easter is taken from Jesus' farewell discourse (or speech) to the disciples. In this reading Jesus prays to the Father, asking for His own glorification so that He may glorify the Father, and also asking for the protection of His disciples as they continue His work in the world. Jesus speaks of the unity between Himself and the Father, and prays for His disciples to be united in the same way.

Jesus specifically prays that His followers would be united, just as He and the Father are one. How does your attitude and behaviour toward other believers reflect the unifying love of Christ?

Jesus states that the disciples belong to the Father, and that He has guarded and kept them. In moments of spiritual doubt or life transitions, how does it comfort you to know that you irrevocably belong to God?

***I Am Thine and Thou Art Mine*** *by Rumi (trans. by R.A. Nicholson)*

Eternal Life is gained
by utter abandonment of one's own life.
When God appears to His ardent lover,
the lover is absorbed in Him, and not so much as a hair of the lover remains.
True lovers are as shadows,
and when the sun shines in glory the shadows vanish away.
He is a true lover to God to whom God says
"I am thine and thou art Mine."

To Listen:

Thy Holy Wings, O Saviour by Carolina Sandell (translator: Gracia Grindal)
All Heaven Declares by Noel Richards and Tricia Richards

A playlist of music suggestions for the course can be found at https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3pJcG5xA1xzhL2Aolau0Q4?si=582cd1f921ae4fb1