

Ascension 2017

Unity Apostles Church of New Zealand
Post Card Number 166
"All Honour to God"



Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, our lord and Saviour,

Warmest wishes from a cold, blustery and wintery New Zealand. We have felt the impact of several cyclones in the last few months and our prayers are with all who suffered loss, especially the families in Edgecumbe here in New Zealand who all had to leave their homes when it became flooded. This Sunday is Ascension Sunday and below is our Apostolic Church's teaching on the Ascension. It is refreshing and we pray that all will take a moment to read and reflect on it.

From the **Understanding our Faith Book (2013 Edition)**

After He had performed His work on earth, Jesus made His apostles missionaries and ordered them to be His witnesses "in Jerusalem and in the whole of Judea and Samaria and unto the ends of the earth". As a comforting promise, He gave them the assurance that He would be with them to the end of the world and that they would be baptized with the Holy Ghost and would receive from it the necessary power to be active witnesses (Acts 1:5-8; Matthew 28:19-20). Then He departed from them and was carried up into heaven (Luke 24:51). Christ's ascension was not only a spiritual ascension but a physical and a spiritual one.



1886 Apostle H F Niemeyer



1912 Apostle

Willy Niemeyer

Morning Devotion focus for 2017. "Lord by Thy grace guide me to give more head to Thy Words, lest at any time I should let them slip."

Apostle Flor 2017

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That is understandable – miraculous though it may be – when we consider that Jesus had appeared to His disciples in His glorious risen body, in order to make them His missionaries. This act of being borne up into heaven is called the “Ascension of Jesus Christ.”

Luke summarized this occurrence in his gospel, but as a writer of Acts, he went rather more deeply into it (Acts 1:9-11). Mark too summarized it thus: "So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God" (Mark 16:19).

Between the lines of the different scriptural accounts, we can read, however, that the Ascension of Christ had a place in the beliefs of the first Christians. When for example the empty place left by Judas among the apostles had to be filled, Peter said to a group of 120 people that this gap had to be closed by one who "beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us" had been among them (Acts 1:21-22).

Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy that Christ had "been seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory" (1 Timothy 3:16). The ascension of Jesus took place 40 days after His resurrection (Acts 1:3). The Christians commemorate this occurrence exactly 40 days after Easter.

In the description of Jesus' ascension, it is recorded that a "cloud" took Him away from their very eyes. Again and again, the writers of the Scriptures were obliged to reproduce, in their own words, facts about God's kingdom which could not be described (because no language has suitable words for them). The Bible therefore needs metaphorical language for such spiritual situations. For example, heavenly Jerusalem is



1929 Apostle Emil Zielke



1961 Apostle Arnold E.
Zielke

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described as consisting of precious metals and stones. The apostles sit on "twelve thrones", etc. Thus the Bible often uses the word "cloud" when mention is being made of the appearance of angels or of the presence of God. Here are some examples:

"And the Lord went before them (the Jews in the desert) by day in a pillar of cloud ... and by night in a pillar of fire" (Exodus 13:21);

"...the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud" (Exodus 16:10);

"And the Lord came down in a cloud" (during Moses' address to the 70 elders Numbers 11:25);

"... and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven ..." (Daniel 7:13; cf. the following text);

"Behold, he cometh with clouds and every eye shall see him..." (Revelation 1:7; prophecy of the Second Coming);

"And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud ..." (Revelation. 10:1).

Obviously a cloud is the symbol, the visible sign, of God's revelation.

Furthermore, the writer of the letter to the Hebrews mentions a "cloud of witnesses". This "cloud of witnesses" should be kept in mind when considering the Second Coming.



1961 Apostle Arnan
Niemeyer



1977
Apostle Merbyn Zischke

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It is easy for us to believe that the clouds seen at Christ's ascension, refer to the clouds of the souls that had resurrected with Him and being taken on to Paradise, and when He returns the clouds mentioned will be those souls that come with Him to be resurrected and reborn to be as He is, spirit first and body second and become His elect.

Auckland Community



1990

Apostle Clif Flor



1990

Apostle Ken Dargusch

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2010 District-Evangelist

Theo van der Nest



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Romanian Orthodox Church in Wellington: Br Theo Visit April 23 2017



Evangelist Theo and Fr
Nikolau



Elder P Vorster (2015-
Present)

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Te Papa Museum in Wellington



Service in Wellington 2017

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Hamilton Community and nuptials



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Below is are a morning and evening prayer for Ascension day from our older brothers in the Catholic Apostolic Church, who started on this road before us (1847)

O GOD, whose blessed Son, in ascending up on high, did lead captivity captive, and receive gifts for men; grant, we beseech Thee, that He may bestow upon us also those gifts, which He vouchsafed unto them which had companied with Him upon earth: Through the same our Lord Jesus Christ.
R. Amen.



O KING of Glory, Lord of Hosts, who hast ascended up in triumph above the heavens; we beseech Thee, leave us not comfortless; but

send upon us the promise of the Father, even the Spirit of Truth.

R. Glory be to Thee, O Christ.

When Thou hadst made glad the hearts of Thy disciples with the promise of the Holy Ghost; when Thou hadst confirmed their souls with Thy blessing of peace; Thou wast received up into glory, O Christ, our Saviour: for Thou art the Son of God, the Saviour of the world.

R. Glory be to Thee, O Christ.

When Thou hadst fulfilled the economy of our redemption; when Thou hadst made one the things in heaven and the things in earth; Thou wast received up into glory, O Christ, our God. In that glory Thou abidest unchangeably, and proclaimest to all who love thee, “Lo, I am with you alway, even to the end of the world.”

R. Hallelujah! Glory be to Thee, O Lord Christ.



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Iconostasis in Wellington

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Christchurch faithful

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Sunday Divine Service:

- Hamilton – First Sunday of the Month-Saint James-82 Nixon Street, Hamilton-East: Time: 6:00PM:
- Auckland – Saint Joseph’s-1 Fred Thomas Drive, Takapuna, North Shore, Auckland: Time : 2:00PM
- Christchurch – Saint Ninian’s- 9 Puriri street: 6:00PM

Divine Services are conducted in English, Afrikaans, Tagalog

General Enquiries

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Weekly Community Bible Study Evenings

Every Tuesday evening in Auckland and Wednesday evening in Hamilton there is a Bible and Prayer meeting at the homes of the Officers. Contact any of us if you wish to attend.

Our community’s services include the dispensing of the following Holy Sacraments:

- Holy Baptism
- Holy Communion
- Holy Sealing

Other services include confirmation, prayers, weekly Divine Services, monthly Church Newsletter and Quarterly, Blessing and officiating of marriage, Church Magazine, Understanding Our Faith Books and Catechisms.

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John 20:17 “Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended, to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father, and to my God, and your God.” Mankind after all those years, again has the right to access God and a loving Father through our Lord Jesus Christ. We read in Luke 24:36-39 of the witness of His apostles “And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? And why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.” This peace proclaimed should be with us all again today. Greetings from Apostle Dargusch

May 2017	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Term 2 School starts	2	3	4	5	6
7 Ascension Pastoral 2016/2017	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Ascension Pastoral 2016/2017	15	16	17 Family Evening	18	19	20
21 Ascension Confirmation	22	23	24	25 Ascension Day	26	27
28 Pentecost Pastoral 2016/2017	29	30	31			

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By the labour of the Holy Ghost we can be prepared for the coming Kingdom of God. Ezekiel 36:27 “And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgements and do them.” Sadly this blessing was lost to the world. Genesis 6:3 “And the Lord said, My Spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.” The bible records of the many times God sent the Holy Ghost to show the power, but had to withdraw it again,

June 2017	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday				1	2	3
4 Pentecost Pastoral 2016/2017	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Teaching of 5 June 2016	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Teaching of 5 June 2016	19	20	21 Family Evening	22	23	24
25 Teaching of 5 June 2016	26	27	28	29	30	

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Genesis 8:20-22 “And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord: and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the Lord smelled a sweet savour; and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man’s sake: for the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seed time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.” We see the great blessing given the world as a result of the thanks offering of Noah and family.
(Apostle Flor)

July 2017 Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Teaching of 17 July 2016	3	4	5	6	7 School Closes Term 2	8
9 Teaching of 17 July 2016	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Teaching of 17 July 2016	17	18	19 Family Evening	20	21	22 UACNZ Trust Meeting Hamilton
23 Teaching of 17 July 2016	24 Term 3 Starts	25	26	27	28	29
30 Teaching of 17 July 2016	31					

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The Lord's temple must be built and completed so that our Lord can walk and dwell therein. As stated, the Lord's temple is built of living stones, these must be found and grooved and placed and shaped to fit therein, so that it is pleasing in the sight of God. It was our Saviour's wish and His design, that His Church should grow and spread, it should stretch forth its boughs and spread its branches wider over the earth, garnering in souls and shielding them from the temptations of the evil one, and giving them spiritual nourishment, the saving fruit of the Gospel truth. The Lord God gives His blessing to the labour of His servants that blessing given at His ascension will be with His servants to the end of the world. These words written in May 1944 by the Late Apostle E Zielke North Queensland.

August 2017 Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Teaching of 14 August 2016	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Teaching of 14 August 2016	14	15	16 Family Evening	17	18	19
20 Teaching of 14 August 2016	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Teaching of 14 August 2016	28	29	30	31		

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We are waiting for Christ's return and for the completion of the New Heaven and New Earth. Only then will the sighing of the creature end. May the precious promises for the future be a comfort to us, but not put us off. In this time of Advent let us be let away from complaints and accusations through the Word and be fastened into the living hope: God is faithful and what He promises He certainly will keep. Apostle Mathias Knuth. Germany

September 2017 Sunday					1	2
3 Mission Sunday Teaching 3 September 2016	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Thanksgiving Sunday Teaching 4 September 2016	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Teaching 4 September 2016	18	19	20 Family Evening	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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What a Beautiful example of Humbleness, by the wise and extremely successful King Solomon. He divulges his "Secret to Success". Eccl. 10:7 "I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth. "No one has ever fallen so low to never rise again... getting up from the fall, you shall without a doubt, "only be wiser." Apostle Philip Erasmus South Africa.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2017 Sunday						
1 Teaching 2 October 2016	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Teaching 2 October 2016	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Teaching 2 October 2016	16 Term 4 starts	17	18 Family Evening	19	20	21
22 Teaching 2 October 2016	23 Labour Day- Public Holiday	24	25	26	27	28
29 Teaching 2 October 2016	30	31				

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Once again by the Grace of Christ, we end another Christian Church year and move into a year where we will relive the life and mission of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to strengthen our faith and trust in what that mission means for us. Hebrews 13:9 “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and for ever.” Advent means arrival and is celebrated four weeks before Christmas, a period of contemplation and preparation, to celebrate the greatest gift from God for mankind, His Son! Apostle Flor

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 2017 Sunday						
Teaching 8 November 2015			1	2	3	4
5 Teaching 8 November 2015	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Teaching 8 November 2015	13	14	15 Family Evening	16	17	18
19 Teaching 8 November 2015	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Teaching 8 November 2015	27	28	29	30		

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This special birth took place in all humbleness, as recorded and was heralded firstly to the shepherds, by the angel and heavenly hosts – Luke 2:10-12 “And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.” The heavenly hosts then joined with the angel to tell what the mission of this Son of God would have to be – Luke 2:14 “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

December 2017	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday						
					1	2
3 Start of AdventAdvent	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Advent Pastoral 2016/2017	11	12 Term 4 Ends	13	14	15	16
17 Advent Pastoral 2016/2017	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 End of Advent/Christmas	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
31						