



ST NINIAN'S UNITING CHURCH

JUNE 1ST, 2025 PEBBLES

ASCENSION SUNDAY



A story based on Acts 1:1-11

One of the greatest things about going to something like the night markets even though it can be very cold, is the huge smile on the faces of the children who have a balloon. Many parents tie them to the pram or their child's wrist so that they don't go 'up, up and away!' If they want to take them home, then they have to hold on to them. Another reason to have a balloon is when your mum is having a baby, and you want to let your friends know if it's going to be boy or a girl is to have a coloured balloon. When you have a balloon for this reason you don't tie them to anything, you just let them go 'up, up and away!' The smiles on this occasion are also big and it's fun to watch the balloon float very high up into sky until it disappears.

In our bible story for today from Acts, we learn that when Jesus was ready to go back to heaven, He took his disciples aside to make sure that they understood everything that had happened to Him. Jesus explained why it was important for Him to be crucified and to be raised from the dead to fulfill what the bible had said about Him. He also told them that he was going to return to His Father in heaven (God) and that the Holy Spirit would come to be with them.

At first, the disciples were sad that Jesus would be leaving them, but then the Bible tells us that Jesus opened their minds so they would understand. Jesus couldn't stay with them, His friends couldn't tie Jesus up either. Then, an amazing thing happened. Luke, a friend of Jesus tells us in Acts, that Jesus lifted his hands and blessed His disciples. While He was blessing them, He lifted up and was taken up into heaven 'up, up and away!' just like the balloons went up into the sky.

I wasn't there, so I don't really know what it looked like, but in my imagination, I can see the disciples standing and watching Jesus go 'up, up and away' higher and higher until they couldn't see Him anymore. Were His friends sad? No way! The Bible tells us that when Jesus had gone up into heaven, the disciples worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy – they were very happy. They stayed continually in the temple (church) singing and praising God.

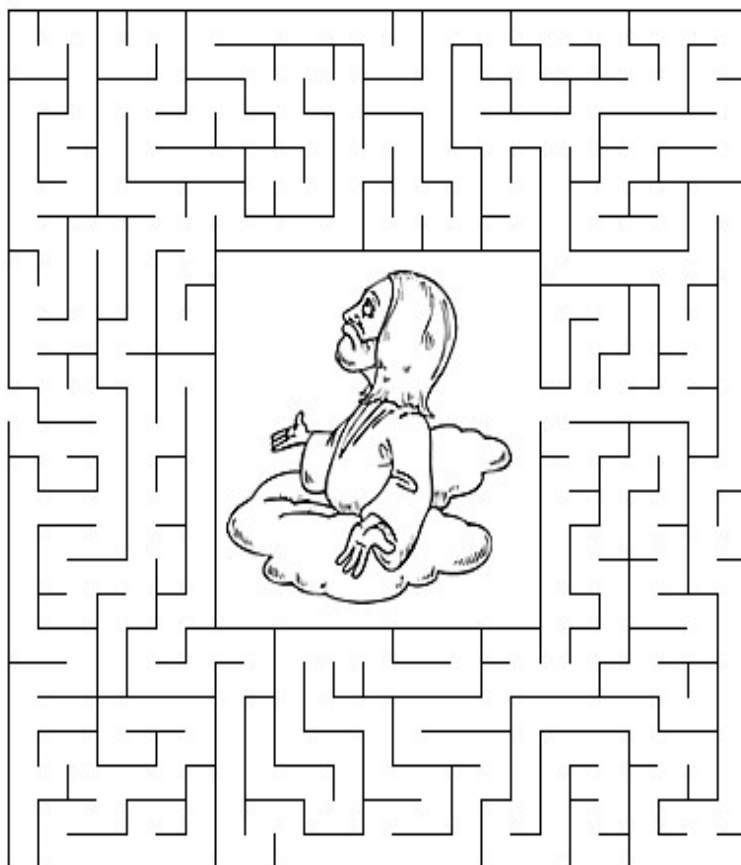
Let's pray to God:

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus, Your only son, to die for my mistakes. I know that He has risen from the dead and has returned to heaven like I will do one day. Bless us all today as we worship Jesus with great joy! In Jesus' name, amen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rlcZ8oOaJA8>



Start Here



The Ascension of Jesus

While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven.
Luke 24:51 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



X	W	V	D	J	Q	R	I	B	S	O	A	E	U	C	P	K	N	H	L	G	M	Y	Z	F	T
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. 25-14-20-25-8-20-20-13-4 _____
2. 11-16-13-18-13-4 _____
3. 22-8-18-4-10 _____
4. 10-15-7-8-16-26-14-7-13 _____
5. 7-8-10-13 _____
6. 7-13-16-13-18-26 _____
7. 9-20-13-10-10-8-18-21 _____
8. 26-12-17-13-18 _____
9. 19-13-12-3-13-18 _____
10. 2-11-7-10-19-8-16-13-4 _____

SCRIPTURE	RISE	REPENT	HEAVEN	BLESSING
MINDS	TAKEN	OPENED	WORSHIPED	FULFILLED



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