



Meditation for the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord

(transferred)

May 16, 2021

¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? [Acts 1:10-11]

Through the story of the ascension of Our Lord, we proclaim that Christ's presence fills the universe and all the earth is made holy by God's presence. We proclaim the triumph of God over all the forces of evil; with Christ's rising we are promised that the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit will guide us into a new way of being with God on earth.

Rowan Williams has explained, for me, the best way to understand the deepest meaning of this story:

Jesus Christ is the light we see by; we see the world in a new way because we see it through him, see it with his eyes. . . . It means that we think about Jesus not as someone completely outside us [someone who lived a long time ago and whom we will never really understand], but as the power in us gradually setting us free to see the world with clarity, hope, and love. . . His life is being lived in us: the new world is being brought to birth in us, gradually and sometimes painfully . . . In and through Jesus we, too, have become a sign of promise...

Rowan Williams, "Ascension Day," *Ray of Darkness* (Cambridge, MA: Cowley, 1995), p. 69, 70, 71

The story of the Ascension of Our Lord calls us to *look up*—not to bow our heads. It calls us to find awe and wonder in the midst of sorrow and loss, to watch for possibilities in the act of letting go of what is most familiar to us. It calls us to a bold hope.