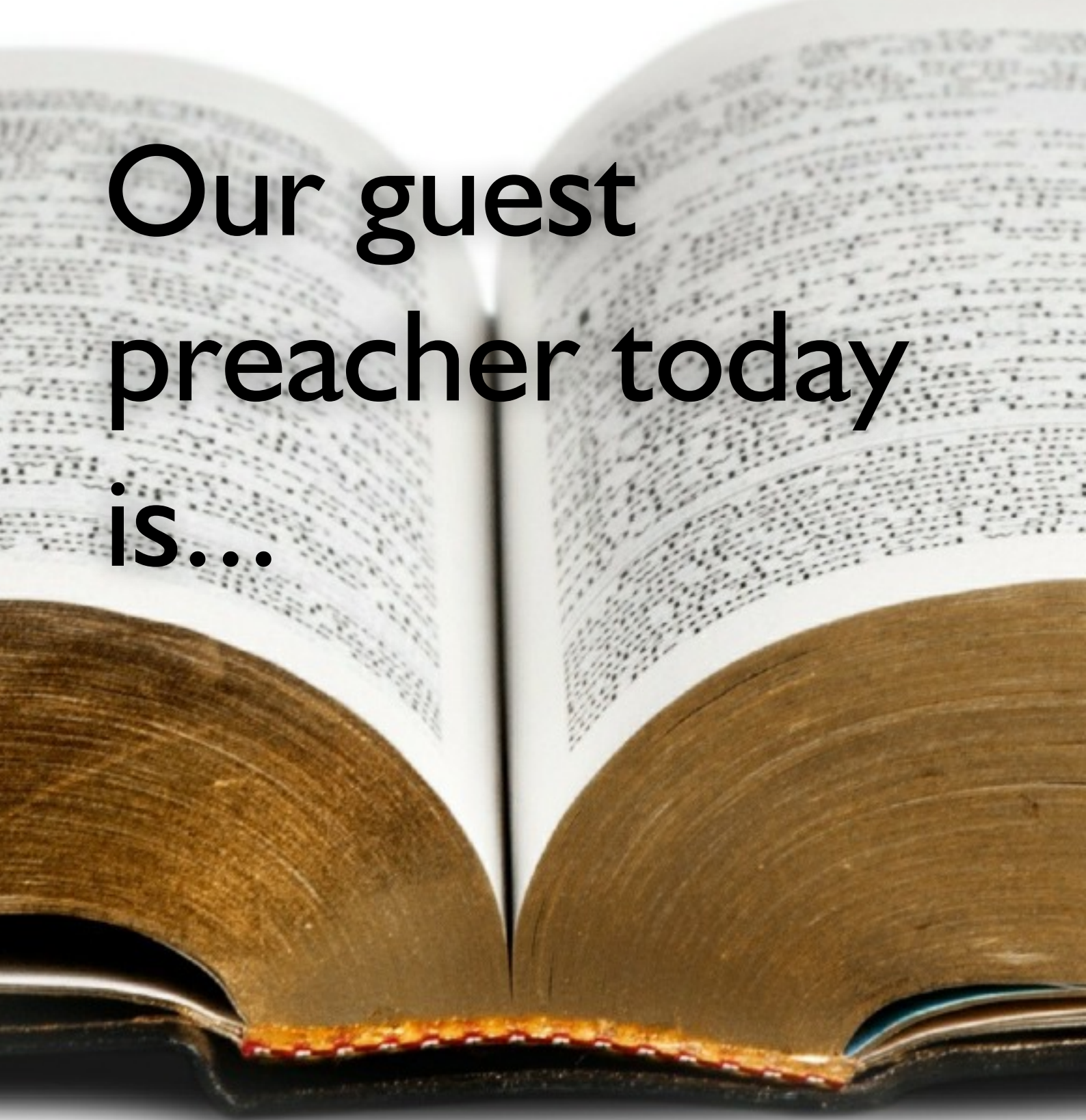




**Our guest
preacher today
is...**

Thomas Ellis Williams

Caerdydd



Ascension of Christ.

1. Opening prayer.
2. Hymn: Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise – Charles Wesley.
3. Bible reading: Isaiah 55:8–13 and / or John 16:25–33 and / or Acts 1:1–11
4. Hymn: See, the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph – Christopher Wordsworth.
5. Prayer. (Appendix 1)
6. Hymn: Look, Ye Saints! the Sight Is Glorious – Thomas Kelly.
7. Watch and listen to the Sermon.
8. Discuss the questions. (Appendix 2)
9. Hymn: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus – William Chatterton Dix.
10. The Benediction.





Appendix 1

Let us pray.

Our heavenly Father,
We come before You in humility and thanksgiving, mindful of Your goodness and Your faithfulness to us day by day.

We thank You for this church and for every church that bears Your name. We thank You for every member, every family, and every individual who belongs to this fellowship. We thank You for the years of witness, service and faithfulness. We thank You for those who have gone before us and for those who continue to bear that witness today.

We thank You especially for all who serve as elders, deacons, churchwardens and faithful members, bearing witness to Christ through the life of Your Church. We thank You for their quiet dedication, for their loving care of Your people, and for their faithful commitment to Your Kingdom. We thank You also for all who freely give of their time, their energy, their gifts and their resources in the service of Your Church and the work of Your Kingdom.

We therefore pray for churches throughout our nation. Bless every congregation gathered in Your name today. May Your Word be proclaimed faithfully, and may many come to know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

You alone see the full extent of the service that takes place beyond the sight of many within our society, and we pray that You would bless every act of love and faithfulness.

Lord, in a world that is so busy and uncertain, teach us to seek the treasures that truly endure. When our hearts are drawn in different directions, and when the cares of each day threaten to fill our minds, grant us the wisdom to seek what is of eternal value.

Lift our eyes above the fog of everyday life.
We lift our eyes to the hills; from where does our help come?



Eglwys Bresbyteraidd Cymru
The Presbyterian Church of Wales



Today we pray especially for those who are struggling with their mental health. You know those who face anxiety, depression, loneliness, exhaustion or discouragement. You know the hidden battles that no one else can see. Draw near to them, Lord.

When the fog of life descends thickly around them, hiding every light and every hope, grant them the grace to see beyond that fog. Remind them that the fog will not last forever. Give them fresh hope, renewed strength, and that peace which passes all understanding.

Sustain those who long for brighter days. Comfort those who mourn. Visit those who are unwell. Be with those facing treatment, tests and uncertain diagnoses. We pray for those confined to their homes, those living in care homes, and those who feel forgotten.

Grant us, as Your Church, compassionate hearts, eyes to see the needs of others, and willing hands to serve.

And through the work of Your Holy Spirit, lift our minds above the worries of today, lift our eyes above the fog of this world, and keep our gaze fixed upon You until that day when we shall see clearly what we now see only through faith.

Lift our gaze to the Son who ascended in glory, blessing His witnesses with grace and peace. Kindle within us the power of conviction, anoint our words and our songs, and make us faithful witnesses to Your love.

In Your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Eglwys Bresbyteraidd Cymru
The Presbyterian Church of Wales



Appendix 2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In John 16:28, Jesus says, “I came from the Father... and I am returning to the Father.” What does this verse teach us about the purpose of Jesus’ life and ministry?
2. Why do you think the Ascension receives less attention than Christmas or Easter? Why is this event so important for the life of the Church?
3. In the sermon, the disciples were compared to the traveller in Caspar David Friedrich’s painting. In what ways can we identify with someone who stands in faith without seeing the whole picture?
4. Isaiah 55:9 reminds us that God’s ways and thoughts are higher than ours. What are the things that tempt us to look down at our fears and anxieties rather than looking up in faith?
5. How did the Ascension prepare the disciples for Pentecost, transforming fearful people gathered behind closed doors into bold witnesses for Christ? What can this teach us today?

Closing Question

If the message of the Ascension is, “He came down in order to lift us up,” how should that truth shape the way we live, the hope we hold, and the way we face uncertainty today?

