

Faith Talk

Trinity Canadian Reformed Church

Worshipping Sundays 9 am and 3 pm, 2553 Binbrook Rd E

Into the Clouds

By Andrew VanAndel

On the night before his death, Jesus Christ had a heart-to heart talk with his disciples, his closest friends. He told them that he was going to be crucified, and they became absolutely terrified. But Jesus told them not to be afraid, for he would be raised again to life. He also said that soon after he arose, he would ascend into heaven to be with God the Father. There, he would prepare heaven for the believers. John 14:2 reads: "In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you."

True to his word, Jesus rose again, and after forty days of further ministry on earth, ascended into heaven, into the clouds, to be with his Father (Mark 16:19). This is what we celebrate on Ascension Day, which is forty days after Easter Sunday.

What does it mean that he is preparing a place for us in heaven? We don't know exactly what God is doing in heaven, but we can be sure that he is counting down the days until he will take his people up to be with him. We have also been given a gift as part of this preparation, namely the Holy Spirit, who dwells in all believers and helps them praise God.

But Ascension Day is more than celebrating the actions of Jesus and his Father in heaven. It also involves a promise for the future. Christ told his disciples: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:3) Christ promises to return to the earth when his time has come. He will take all who belong to him and are waiting for him up to heaven, ascending as he did to be with God the Father. When this will happen, however, is unknown to us, for we cannot predict the specific time. Peter the apostle even compares this day to a thief that comes at night, entirely unexpected (1 Thessalonians 5:2).

So we as God's people must prepare, as Jesus is doing now, so that we are ready for his great return. Are you ready?

Andrew VanAndel is a member of Trinity Canadian Reformed Church.

<http://www.trinitycanrc.org>

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