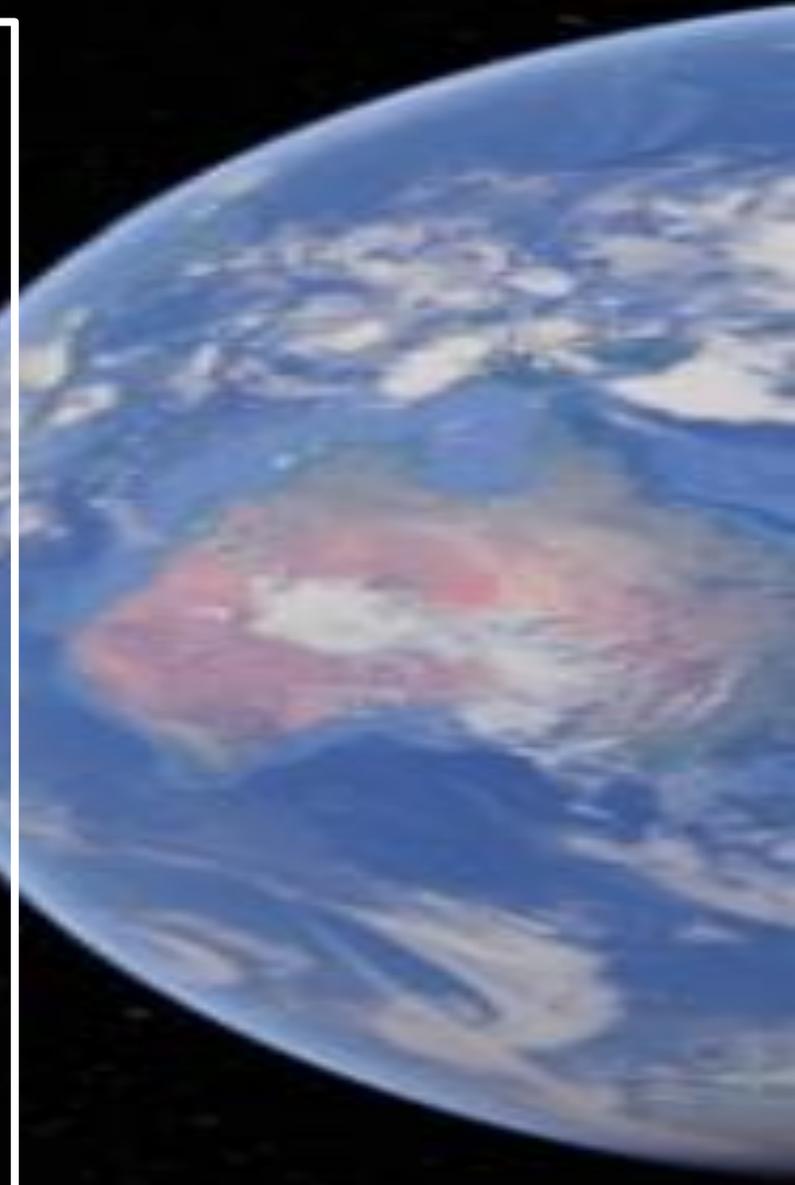


## Easter 7: Commission & Ascension

*Not considering myself to be a particularly emotional person really, I always thought that watching each of my children attend their first day at infant school wouldn't affect me. Perhaps that by the time it got to number 3 child, the novelty would have worn off ... but no, I was filled with as much anxiety, worry (not to mention fighting back the tears!). That sense that they were now stepping out into the world ... or at least stepping out from under our feet for the weekdays ... was a big step for me as well as for the kids. I remember issuing instructions to them at the door of the classroom about what to do, not to do, what to not forget ... like a 4 year old was going to take this all in!*

*And so the focus this week sees Jesus leaving his disciples and returning to His Father in heaven ... leaving his disciples (children) to get on with things on their own. Jesus must have known deep down that they would be okay and would stand up on their own feet. Like a true parent, He had given them instructions about what to do and was hoping that they remember everything. All the lessons He had taught them ... everything was over to them. We as a Christian community now need to carry on with those instructions and lessons ... sharing the Good News with all those that we meet. Our Father in heaven loves us, but it is time for us to step out!*

[Mr Doust]



**Prayer:**

Dear God, we ask that you would fan into flame the global body of Christ so that its heartbeat for the Great Commission beats strongly. Transform us as we read your Word and pray for the good news of Jesus to be amplified as a song of praise in our lives. Use us in our homes and schools for the sake of loving God with all our hearts, minds, and souls, loving our neighbours with all the grace and mercy you give. Amen

**Scripture:**

He said to them, "It is written that the Christ would be killed and rise from death on the third day. You saw these things happen - you are witnesses. You must tell people to change their hearts and lives. If they do this, their sins will be forgiven. You must start at Jerusalem and preach these things in my name to all nations. Listen! My Father has promised you something; I will send it to you. But you must stay in Jerusalem until you have received that power from heaven."

Jesus led his followers out of Jerusalem almost to Bethany. He raised his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he was separated from them and carried into heaven. They worshiped him and then went back to the city very happy. They stayed in the Temple all the time, praising God.

