

## Reflection by Tessa Amies

Seventh Sunday of Easter.  
John 17: 6 – 19  
12 May 2024.

This Sunday lies mid-way between Ascension Day and Pentecost. On Thursday we remembered our Lord's departure into heaven and his return to his Father. His ministry here on earth complete for the moment. Next Sunday we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. These 10 days in between are a time of waiting, preparation, and prayer. God is silent.



### THE PAINTING;

Paintings of the Ascension are comparatively rare. Maybe it is difficult to visualize. It is more of a spiritual happening than a historical event.

There are a few paintings of Christ's feet disappearing into clouds, but they seem rather unconvincing.

*(How would you depict the event !?)*

This one has more structure to it.

It's painted by Andrea Mantegna (c1431-1506).

He lived and worked in renaissance Italy.

Christ is gently born upwards surrounded by a group of 'putti'. His left hand is raised in a blessing and an almost farewell wave to the disciples below. His right hand holds a flag, reminiscent of a Bishop's crook.?

A small group of people and disciples have gathered, and peer upwards to watch as Christ gently ascends to heaven.

The painting is in the Uffizi Gallery in Florence.

### PENTECOST - The Coming of the Holy Spirit.

Another event which is difficult to record.

Tongues of flame and rushing might winds . . . . ?

The Holy Spirit is often represented by a Dove.

This one is a finial on the cover on the Font in Exeter Cathedral. It's carved in wood and was made for the baptism of Charles I daughter in 1644.

