

1 Rejoice, the Lord is King:  
Your Lord and King adore!  
mortals, give thanks and sing,  
and triumph evermore.

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!  
Rejoice! Again I say: rejoice!*

2 Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,  
the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our stains,  
he took his seat above;

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!  
Rejoice! Again I say: rejoice!*

3 His kingdom cannot fail,  
he rules both earth and heaven;  
the keys of death and hell  
are to our Jesus given:

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!  
Rejoice! Again I say: rejoice!*

4 He sits at God's right hand  
Till all his foes submit,  
And bow to his command,  
And fall beneath his feet:

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!  
Rejoice! Again I say: rejoice!*

# The Cotteridge Church

Easter 7 Sunday 29th May 2022



## Bible Readings

Acts 16:16-34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26

## Collect for Easter 7

Risen Christ,  
you have raised our human nature to the throne of  
heaven:

help us to seek and serve you,  
that we may join you at the Father's side,  
where you reign with the Spirit in glory,  
Now and for ever.

Amen

I used to think of God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong, so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. He was out there, sort of like a president of a large company...I recognized His picture when I saw it, but I didn't really know Him.

But later on, when I met Christ, it was as though life was rather like a bike... a tandem bike. And, Christ was in the back helping me pedal. I don't know just when it was He suggested we change places, but life has not been the same since I took the back seat to Jesus, My Lord. Christ makes life exciting. When I had control, I thought I knew the way, but it was rather boring, yet predictable. It was the shortest distance between two points. But when He took the lead, He knew delightful long-cuts, up mountains, and through rocky places and at breakneck speeds; it was all I could do to hang on!

Even though it often looked like madness, He would say, "Pedal!" I was worried and anxious and asked, "Where are you taking me?" He would laugh and didn't answer, and I started to learn to trust. I forgot my boring life and entered the adventure. And, when I'd say, "I'm scared," He'd lean back and touch my hand.

He took me to people with gifts that I needed...gifts of healing, acceptance and joy. They gave me their gifts to take on my journey, our journey, my Lord's and mine; and we were off again. He would say, "Give the gifts away; they are extra baggage, too much weight."

So I did, to the people we met, and I found that in giving I received back, and still our burden was light. I have to admit I did not trust Him, at first, to be in control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it, but He knows bike secrets. He knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners, jump to clear high rocks, fly to shorten scary passages. I am learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places, and I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion, Jesus Christ.

And when I'm sure I just can't do any more, He just smiles and says, "Pedal."