

Reflection: The Eternal Creation

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16, perhaps the most famous verse that has led countless millions into a saving relationship with Jesus, promises that whoever believed in him would not “perish,” but would live forever in heaven with God, or at least that’s what we think eternal life, sometimes called everlasting life, entails!

In fact, eternal life is more than life without end. The Greek phrase translated as “eternal life” means, literally, “life of the aeon” or “life of the age to come.” It refers, not just to life without end, but to a new quality of life. Eternal life is the life of God’s future, life as it was meant to be.

Disciples of Jesus Christ believe that we begin to experience eternal life even before we die. When we draw near to God and receive his peace, when he heals our broken relationships, when we catch glimpses of God’s justice in the world, we receive a foretaste of the life to come. Moreover, we have the high calling and privilege of participating with God in allowing the world to see eternal life through us. This happens in a multitude of ways as we live each day by God’s guidance and for his glory. As you walk this section, reflect on this; how have you experienced a foretaste of eternal life? When you envision the life of God’s future, what do you picture? How are you helping others to have a foretaste of eternal life today?

Gracious God, how I thank you for the gift of eternal life. The hope of your future is a marvellous one. It encourages me to hang in there when this life gets hard. Moreover, it gives me a vision for how I might live today. O Lord, even as I am blessed with a foretaste of the life of the age to come, may I live in such a way that I share this with others. Help me to be a person of mercy, grace, forgiveness, and love. May I seek your justice in all my relationships and in every place where I have the ability to make a difference.

May your kingdom come, Lord, even now on this earth, your creation, as it is in Heaven!

Amen.

Pastrow Pilgrimage



Hatherden
to



Penton Mewsey
4.56 km (2.85 miles)

The Pastrow Benefice
Sharing the love, grace and truth of Jesus Christ

Route details: (numbers in brackets refer to pictures)

Start: Christ Church, Hatherden, GR SU 3440 5032

Grid Ref	Directions
SU 3443 5036	Head west on tarmac between church and school (1), then FP for 300m to Goddards Lane.
SU 3415 5026	Turn L along lane (caution), 200m to kissing-gate on R (2).
SU 3426 5013	Turn R through kissing-gate, 1400m on FP initially with hedge-line on R then across field to Nutbane Lane (3).
SU 3393 4990	Turn L on lane (caution). After 250m turn L (4) on FP/Bridleway for 600m through woods.
SU 3333 4960	Turn R on farm track. Keep straight on for 1400m on track to Chalk Croft Farm. Keep straight ahead on tarmac Chalkcroft Lane (caution) for a further 800m to junction with Newbury Hill (White Hart PH directly ahead).
SU 3305 4744	Turn R 70m to church-yard gate.

End: Holy Trinity, Penton Mewsey, GR SU 3296 4742

Refreshments: Old Bell & Crown PH, Hatherden, 300m S of church
White Hart PH, Penton Mewsey

Photographs:



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)