

Worship at Home - Sunday 5 June 2022

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use at home. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people across the Methodist Connexion are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

Creator God; we come before you today expressing our adoration and praise. We ask you to bless all who are worshipping today, wherever they may be; and ask that our worship brings honour and glory to Your name. Amen.

Hymn: StF385 Holy Spirit, we welcome you

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

<https://youtu.be/eKlquTpWpz0>

Holy Spirit, we welcome you,
Holy Spirit, we welcome you!
Move among us with holy fire
as we lay aside all earthly desire,
hands reach out and our hearts
aspire.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome you!

Holy Spirit, we welcome you,
Holy Spirit, we welcome you!
Let the breeze of your presence
blow
that your children here might truly
know
how to move in the Spirit's flow.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,

Holy Spirit, we welcome you!

Holy Spirit, we welcome you,
Holy Spirit, we welcome you!
Please accomplish in us today
some new work of loving grace, we
pray --

unreservedly -- have your way.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,

Holy Spirit, we welcome you!

Christopher Alan Bowater (b. 1947)

Let us pray together

Almighty God, we praise Your holy name and give thanks for this opportunity to be part of worship today. We remember those living in circumstances where worship is difficult and pray that they too will be blessed today. There are times when we also may find it difficult to worship and feel that we have let you down; but we can rejoice in the assurance that you are a loving and forgiving God and are with us in all circumstances. We are all part of God's family world-wide and pray that we shall know the strength, encouragement and peace that this brings; whatever our circumstances

are. Bless your people today; and may our lives be enriched through our fellowship and worship. Amen

Today's Reading from the Old or New Testament Acts 2 v 1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretan

and Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power'. All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"In the last days it will be, God declares,

That I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

**Today's Gospel Reading: John 14 v
8-17**

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.'

Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask for anything, I will do it.

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

Time to Reflect

Today is Pentecost Sunday; a significant event in the life of the Church; and one that should not be downplayed. Christmas and Easter gain prominence because the secular world has hi-jacked these for material gain. Pentecost has eluded such secular concern – for now!

For us as Christians, Pentecost is a momentous event. Some say it is the birthday of the Church; others that it was the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Well; God's spirit has always been in the world. In Genesis, the spirit moved over the waters of the earth and God breathed life into Creation (the Hebrew word ruach means spirit and breath). God's spirit gave people special gifts eg the gift of prophecy but also some practical gifts such as Samson's strength. In the New Testament, the spirit of God was operative in the life of Jesus and was essential to the life of the early church as well as each individual Christian. The early church was full of joy, love and praise and no decision was taken without asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Prayer, patience and obedience were 3 key elements in the life of the early Church. Can we learn from that pattern? How do we

make decisions as a Church? What part does prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit play? How patient are we in waiting upon God when we live in a world where instant responses are expected?

On the day of Pentecost, God's spirit gave the early Church a new joy in worship and praise; a new love for one another and the world, a new understanding of God and a desire to share this good news with everyone.

May the blessings of God's spirit be alive and well in the life of God's people and church today, inspiring us to go forth and share God's love and blessing wherever we go and with whoever we meet. Amen.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Father God,
We come before you today with much in our hearts and on our minds. We look at the world and see so many needs both on the world-wide stage and also in our own communities and lives. So we pray today that peace may prevail over conflict- conflict between nations, conflict in our communities and conflict in our families. May people find ways of living together in harmony, despite differences they may have.

Much of our world continues to be affected by injustice and poverty. We

give thanks for those who are working to alleviate suffering and bring justice to those who are oppressed.

We remember before you those who are sad, lonely and isolated. We especially pray for those who have been forced to flee their homes, losing all that they have. We pray that they may find comfort, friendship and a sense of belonging in a world that can so often feel distant and uncaring. As our Queen celebrates her Platinum Jubilee, we give thanks for her years of service, dedication and example. Help us to be humble and faithful servants, following the example of Jesus – the Servant King. He calls us to enthrone Him in our lives but also learn how to serve the needs of others, for it is Christ we are serving. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3bsgoPjcg4>

A prayer of blessing

Bless us O Lord as we seek to serve you in our daily lives. May our words and deeds be worthy of your name. May your peace and blessing be with us all for we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

Original Materials by John Roughley (local preacher Bede Methodist circuit, Gateshead)

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