

Worship at Home service Sunday 19th May 2024 with Revd Ian Forsyth

A call to worship:

God gives us light. And yet often we stick to darkness. It takes courage to go into the light,
a willingness to start again, to keep trusting –
trusting that one day, we will see, and finally find peace. **Amen.**

A gathering prayer

Wonderful God, in the very beginning, the first thing you gave us was your light, your heavenly light, even before you made the sun. In your light we flourish. And we call your Son, Jesus Christ, the light of the world. He reaches into our darkness, and heals us, and makes us whole.

Today, help us to learn how to be children of your light. **Amen.**

StF 372 Come down O love divine.

Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
mine outward vesture,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till Love create a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

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

Bible readings

Psalm 46, John 15:26-27, Acts 2 1-21

Prayers

Gracious God, we give thanks today for every work of loving grace we have seen in our lives this week.

We bring them to mind in thanksgiving.

Loving God, we give thanks today for every glimpse of your Spirit at work in the world around us.

We bring them to mind in adoration.

Merciful God, we acknowledge there have been times in our lives this week where we have not allowed you to work in our lives without reservation.

We bring them to mind in humility.

Jesus, who promised the Spirit, promised too that we could be people who forgive one another and receive forgiveness from God.

We give thanks for that forgiveness now to our gracious, loving and merciful God. Amen.

A past Pentecost reflection for the present:

Sometimes we find the anticipation of something is quite different to what actually happens. That difficult conversation you build up in your mind and worry about that goes alongside it. The quick and easy piece of work that takes quite a few hours. The panic at finding a new place when, in the end, the journey is straight forward.

In the readings, Jesus tries to give a sense of what it will mean for the Spirit of Truth to come to the disciples. When it came to Pentecost, was what actually happened, very different from what they anticipated?

After all, Jesus did not say that there would be tongues of fire and miracles of communication involved.

Communication was very difficult during the pandemic. Different ways have worked for different people and, if we are honest, we have not always been able to anticipate what will work best straight away or get it right all the time. When we look at the story of Pentecost, we can see the way in which the Spirit breaks down barriers of communication. When that happens, people experience God in ways that are meaningful to them.

What barriers of communication have you seen broken down in ways that need to continue? What are the barriers that we still need to work on breaking down? How will we respond when what happens is different to what we anticipated? What will we learn from our experiences both over the last five years and into the future?

This Pentecost, may we pray for everyone to experience the Spirit of God at home or at work in their lives, but it may happen in ways we don't anticipate.

Prayers of intercession for Pentecost Sunday

Holy Spirit, coming as wind and fire, free and irrepressible, we pray today for all who long for change and for all who fear it. We think of the poor and the hungry. The homeless and the refugee, the sick and the unemployed. The downtrodden and the oppressed – these, and others, who yearn for a new beginning, an opportunity to start afresh. May their prayers be answered, and their dreams realised. As you came at Pentecost.

Come again today.

We pray for those who see change as a threat: a sweeping-away of everything that is tried and trusted; the imposition of unknown challenges and an uncertain future. May they rest secure in the knowledge that, whatever else may change, you will remain constant. As you came at Pentecost.

Come again today.

Holy Spirit, coming gently as a dove, we pray for all who long for peace, and all who have lost sight of what peace really means.

We think of those in homes racked by tensions, families split by petty disputes, communities scarred by prejudice and intolerance, and countries torn apart by war. May dialogue triumph over confrontation, and unity replace division. As you came at Pentecost.

Come again today.

We pray for those who fill their lives with noise or activity, afraid of facing themselves in a time of quiet reflection, attempting somehow to mask their sense of emptiness; and we pray, too, for those who seek fulfilment in that which can never finally satisfy – wealth, possessions, power, success. May they discover the secret of true contentment, the peace that passes understanding that only you can give. As you came at Pentecost.

Come again today.

Holy Spirit, you changed the lives of the apostles and of countless people through history, just as you are changing our lives in turn each renewed through your sovereign power. Come now and change our world in all its need, so that it may enjoy hope and peace, healing and harmony, and so that all may come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord. As you came at Pentecost. **Come again today.**

StF 38 Come, O Holy Spirit, come (Wa wa wa Emimimo

NIGERIAN:

Wa wa wa Emimimo. (Emiolye.)

Wa wa wa Alagbaram. (Alagbarameta.)

Wao, wao, wao. (Emimimo.)

ENGLISH:

Come, O Holy Spirit, come. (Holy Spirit, come.)

Come, Almighty Spirit, come. (Almighty Spirit, come.)

Come, come, come. (O Spirit, come.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= yn98ri6OBU>

A sending out prayer:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and for evermore. **Amen.**

A Celtic blessing.

Christ be with me, Christ within me
Christ behind me and Christ before me
Christ beside me and Christ in me
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me and Christ above me
Christ in quiet and Christ in danger
Christ in hearts of all that love me.
Christ a mighty friend no stranger
I bind unto myself the name the strong name of the Trinity by the
Invocation of the same the three in one and one in three.
Whom all men shall have creation eternal Father Spirit worthy.
Praise to the Lord of my salvation.
Salvation is of Christ the Lord. **Amen**

