

Worship@Home 10th May 2026 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Led by Revd David Speirs

Opening Prayer:

Holy God, today we worship in the light of the Resurrection of Jesus, thankful that the shadows of Good Friday have been chased away by the dawning of your new creation. We thank you for the gift of this day and for the promise of your presence that transcends time and space. As we wait between the joy of the empty tomb and the fire of Pentecost, open our hearts to hear your voice. Calm our anxieties, renew our spirits, and remind us that we are never alone. May our worship today be a true reflection of your love for us, as we seek to follow the Way of Christ in the power of your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

StF 4 Father in heaven

<https://youtu.be/WWdl5g4TP6M?si=swDGKcccfrQZ4mSF>

Father in heaven, grant to your children
mercy and blessing, songs never ceasing,
love to unite us, grace to redeem us -
Father in heaven, Father our God.

Jesus, Redeemer, may we remember
your gracious passion, your resurrection.
Worship we bring you, praise we shall sing you -
Jesus, Redeemer, Jesus our Lord.

Spirit descending, whose is the blessing,
strength for the weary, help for the needy,
sealed in our kinship, yours be our worship -
Spirit descending, Spirit adored.

Daniel Thambyrajah Niles (1908-1970) Words and Music: © East Asia Christian Conference
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Please read:

John 14: 15-21

<https://bible.oremus.org/?q=260930909>

Time to Reflect.

It can be tempting to view Jesus' resurrection as just a past event, something we celebrate with joy on Easter Sunday before quickly returning to our ordinary routines. Yet Easter is not confined to a single Sunday. It is a season that reminds us how the resurrection changes the way we live. What does it mean to wake up on an ordinary Monday and carry the same responsibilities, worries, and unanswered questions, and still believe that Christ is risen? Easter invites us to live as resurrection people, shaped by the conviction that death and despair never have the final word because God is making all things new. It reminds us that faith is worked out every day in kitchens, workplaces, classrooms, and conversations with others.

During Eastertide we find ourselves in a curious in-between place. Like the disciples, we have celebrated the resurrection, yet we await the full fire of Pentecost. In the lectionary reading, Jesus is preparing his disciples for a seismic change, promising the Holy Spirit who will come as an advocate. There is both comfort and challenge in this waiting, because it requires trust before we fully understand what God is doing.

The disciples feared being "orphaned"; the Greek *orphanos* suggests being left vulnerable and without a home. We may also recognise this fear in our own lives as we navigate uncertainty, carry grief, or wrestle with deep questions about the future. We know what it is to feel unsettled, suspended between what has been and what is yet to come. Yet the Easter message is that the risen Christ remains present with us through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit is the gift of Easter made personal. Rather than admiring Jesus from a distance, we are invited to participate in his life. As Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

This is not a legalistic test, but a description of what love naturally does as it shapes our actions. To love Christ is to inhabit the world differently by choosing patience over irritation, kindness over indifference, and grace over fear.

Resurrection is not simply about what happened to Jesus, but what now becomes possible for the whole of creation. The empty tomb is less an ending than an opening; a doorway into God's future breaking into the present.

To live as Easter people is to become attentive to signs of new life in places that once seemed closed off by loss or disappointment: a relationship beginning to heal, a community rebuilding after hardship, or a small act of generosity that interrupts everyday selfishness.

This can be challenging, because we are often impatient people. We long for certainty and resolution. Yet the days between Easter and Pentecost teach us the spiritual discipline of waiting. The disciples did not move immediately from resurrection joy to Spirit-filled boldness. There was a season of learning how to dwell in promise before its fullness arrived. In this, they mirror our own experience. We too live in unfinished stories, holding hopes that are still fragile and emerging.

But Christian waiting is not passive; it is expectant. The disciples gathered, prayed, and remained together. So too, we are called to make space for God through prayer, worship, scripture, and acts of mercy, not as obligations, but as ways of opening ourselves to the Spirit's transforming presence. In doing so, we become more attentive to God's quiet work within us and around us, often in ways we only recognise with hindsight.

As we continue this Easter journey toward Pentecost, we hold fast to Jesus' promise: "I will not leave you orphaned." The risen Christ has not left us alone. The Spirit is given. God is with us still, breathing courage, hope, and new life into the ordinary rhythms of our days. And so we move forward not with all the answers, but with confidence that God's presence continues to sustain, guide, and renew us.

Prayer of Intercession

You are invited to pray silently for:

The needs of the world...

The Church and its calling...

Loved ones going through difficult times...

For peace, justice, and reconciliation...

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven...

StF 382 Holy Spirit come confirm us

https://youtu.be/WcccR_SZrv4?si=5l8m3fUvNxz2rhi-

Holy Spirit, come, confirm us in the truth that Christ makes known;
we have faith and understanding
through your helping gifts alone.

Holy Spirit, come, console us, come as advocate to plead;
loving Spirit from the Father,
grant in Christ the help we need.

Holy Spirit, come, renew us, come yourself to make us live;
holy through your loving presence,
holy through the gifts you give.

Holy Spirit, come, possess us, you the love of Three in One,
Holy Spirit of the Father,
Holy Spirit of the Son.

Brian Foley (1919 – 2000)
One Licence Song Number: 21693

Final Prayer

Holy God, In Christ you have promised that you will not leave us as orphans, but that you will remain with us always. As we go out from this time of worship, may we carry the peace of your presence into a world that is often weary and afraid. Strengthen our resolve to keep your Son's commandments of love and to be witnesses to your resurrection power in every ordinary moment. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore.

Amen.