

Intercessions:

Come Holy Spirit, pour upon us power, as Jesus promised, so in silence, expectantly we take this moment to wait upon You.

Come Loving Holy Spirit, we pray for a fresh infilling of Your Life in Your church worldwide, breaking all barriers down in the fire of Your Love. We pray, asking strength for all facing violence and hate for owning faith in You, Lord God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Come Sovereign Holy Spirit, we bring our community, local, national and world leaders to You, that by Your Grace, prejudice may be abandoned, that justice and mercy may flourish, bridges of reconciliation, love and hope may be built, that the last, lost and least may be raised up and resources equitably distributed.

Come Healing Holy Spirit, we pause, lifting to You all those we hold on our hearts....

Come Merciful Holy Spirit, we seek Your strengthening presence, to surround all who are fearful, distressed, awaiting medical treatment, those burdened with illness and those grieving, for their onward journey. We pray for those working in emergency and caring services, that they may know Your compassion and wisdom, and they may be encouraged in all they undertake.

Come Empowering Holy Spirit, we praise You, that in Your eternal Mercy and Grace, we may seek to more fully surrender to Your instruction, and be committed to serve as You direct, **Amen**.

Hymn: **Angel voices, ever singing** (StF 39, H&P 484)

Prayer:

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all ever more, Amen.

This worship sheet was prepared by Local Preacher Margaret Field

Darlington District Worship at Home

Pentecost - Sunday 23 May 2021



Call to Worship:

Come let us worship our Loving Living Lord God, rejoicing in every blessing the Holy Spirit bestows upon us.

Praise The Lord, Hallelujah!

Bible Reading:

O LORD, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures. Psalm 104: 24

Hymn: **O breath of Life**, (StF 391, H&P 777)

Prayers of Confession, Praise and Thanksgiving:

Eternal Lord God, we come with deep gratitude for Your Mercy, aware of our many faults and failings in our thoughts, words and actions. We admit preferring our own comfort and wants above the needs of others, we seek Your pardon, and Holy Spirit renewal of our hearts, minds and wills. Lord God in Your tender compassion fully align our lives to Your Will and Way for Your Glory.

Heavenly Father we praise You with thanksgiving for Your Grace extended to us in the death and resurrection of Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, who by His incomprehensibly great sacrifice has redeemed us to Yourself. We now reverently draw near offering our praises to You, trusting ourselves to the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit, in the precious Name of our Lord Jesus, with wonder and reverent awe to kneel, worshipping before Your throne, Amen.

The Lord's Prayer: **Our Father...**

Bible Reading: [John 15: 26 - 27](#) and [John 16: 4 - 16](#)

Hymn: **Spirit of the Living God** (StF 395, H&P 295)

Reflection: *Shavuot/Pentecost a time to pause and praise.*

Pentecost seems a magnetic word which very easily accumulates misunderstanding. The word's actual meaning is "50 days", a period which marked the end of the barley harvest counted from the presentation at First Fruits during Passover of the first barley sheaf. So Shavuot is a festival of gratitude and joy for God's blessings, also is a reminder of meeting with God at Sinai to receive the Law, that clarified the implications of being people set apart, heart's changed, as God's living blessing to the world.

In today's Bible reading Jesus teaches that all disciples need daily Holy Spirit indwelling. Jesus saying, "you also must testify", leaves no alternate options in this partnership. This clarity of purpose is a relief to me especially in these days. Being a reminder, to live healthily requires good balanced nutrition, for spirit, soul and body. As we take care to eat, also we must not neglect daily worship and Bible reading. Jesus affirmed only He brings "life in all its fullness" John 10: 10, because God always intends that people should know the joy of close relationship and all His blessings daily. Thereby, the paramount truth, is for all to personally know Jesus. Therefore, all disciples are in need of the Holy Spirit's empowering to faithfully, boldly share God's blessings with all whom they are in contact.

In these days we have seen clearly that people are struggling, as our current circumstances are a painful trial to many, our comfort has been shaken by something we cannot see and we face a new environment. I rejoice to study these Scriptures, which remind us Jesus is for ever our victorious Sovereign Lord.

For the disciples then, their shaking was Jesus's physical departure, which would also be the beginning of a more intimate relationship to which we too are privileged partakers, no matter the life storms we face. Scripture relates that Jesus always stepped out boldly with compassion. Jesus spoke about relationship, opening up new vistas in daily living. Thereby, Pentecost now reminds us, that we are invited into the same journey as the first disciples. We have the advantage that our journey starts with joy,

knowing the resurrection and ascension of our glorified Lord. Our faith walk is to journey on, grasping Jesus's promise that Holy Spirit is always our Companion. Aware in these uncertain days, as Psalm 104: 24 reminds us, the works of our Lord God are many, varied and rich. Therefore, let us look up with thanksgiving, daily counting every blessing from God. We are the privileged recipients of grace and mercy beyond our comprehension, surrounded by God's Love so wide, deep and high, we can never reach Love's outer limits.

We have to keep reminding ourselves of our privileged position, by daily reading Scripture, so that we are prepared to fully participate in all God intends for each of us. Aware it is never God's plan that we should live a diminished life, of despair and lack. Jesus died the most cruel death to secure for us, "life in all its fullness". Therefore, we need to participate in the excitement, absorbing the wonders of His promise. Thereby, with enthusiasm we share this joy with all whom we are in contact, aware we are so blessed.

We cannot change yesterday, tomorrow is beyond our reach, because it never comes. All we have is today, to live as God intends, adventuring with the Holy Spirit, drawn ever further into God's Love, even when circumstances take us out of our comfort zone. I recall learning to swim, the hardest part was fear of letting go of the pool side and trusting the water. Jesus's commission to us is witnessing to the daily blessings of God in our lives. This may feel a daunting task, if we forget, that we are never alone, and firmly held, secure in God's hand. True, as I am only too well aware, our own abilities are insufficient for what each day holds. Change will always be constant and discomfiting, so I focus on God who is our strength, trusting His Word and Love. Therefore, I determine, as I put one foot in front of the other, to move as the Holy Spirit directs, leaving the outcome to God, Eternal Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As I journey on, I resolve to rejoice in God's daily blessings with worship:

Hallelujah, our God reigns, Praise the Lord, Amen.