



SERVICE FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY

MAY 31st 2020

Call To Worship Acts 2:17-18

“In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.
Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.



Hymn Be Still for the presence of the Lord

https://youtu.be/Y5S_-zhHfDA

BE STILL, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here;
Come bow before Him now with reverence and fear.
In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground;
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire, with splendour He is crowned.
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him;
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Prayer

Father God we praise and thank you that you have called us to be your people.
We thank you this day for the gift of your Holy Spirit, the living presence of Jesus in our lives.
We praise you that your Spirit brings strength and courage, wisdom and truth,
that brought the disciples out of lockdown and brought the Church to birth.
Come amongst us again today to give us courage to face the future, with all its risks and
uncertainties. Refashion your church to meet the needs of a new age and generation.
Inspire us to reach out to all in need, by your wisdom and power.

Amen

Hymn Holy Spirit, we welcome you

<https://youtu.be/4LbLi76iqac>

HOLY SPIRIT, WE WELCOME YOU.

Holy Spirit, we welcome You.
Move among us with holy fire,
As we lay aside all earthly desires,
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 me today
Some new work of loving grace, I pray;
Unreservedly have Your way.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome You.

Just recently I was chatting on the phone to two friends I have known since primary school. Their lives have mirrored ours in many ways and now they are really struggling because Judy's health is failing and she is needing constant care from her husband, Philip. Judy asked how our faith helps us cope, and that question has been spinning round in my mind ever since.

The question can be answered in many ways but crucially for me it is the certainty that however out of control everything around me may be, God is still in control, and that despite all my flaws and weaknesses, God still loves me, and is able and willing to equip me and use me in working His purposes out.

The apostle John spends 4 of the 21 chapters of his gospel recounting the events at the last supper Jesus shared with his disciples on the night of his arrest, trial, and execution. Jesus spends the last few hours of his time with the disciples underlining that same message again and again. Though their world is about to fall apart it is all in God's plan, and he will keep them safe. Though they will all let him down, still he loves them, prays for them, and will strengthen them. In the midst of the turmoil he promises them Peace and the Gift of the Holy spirit, as His living presence with them to take them into the future.

John 14:15-20 and 26-27 reads as follows:-



¹⁵ "If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever — ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

²⁶ the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

The disciples at the last supper had little understanding of the momentous changes and challenges that Christ's death and resurrection would bring, Still less the full power of the Holy Spirit available to them, poured out at Pentecost that saw 3,000 new believers come to faith that day alone, as a new church, worldwide in its reach, was born.

The book of Acts reveals how they responded (not always well) to all the new challenges – teaching and discipling the new converts, issues of lifestyle and leadership, fairness and equality when the new church contained both slaves and slave-owners, rich and poor, young and old, men and women from all nations and strata of society. All under the control and direction of God's Holy Spirit.

After Jesus' death the disciples went into lockdown, fearing the worst. The coming of the Spirit gave them the courage to overcome their fears and the wisdom to face a new and unprecedented situation.

As we take our first steps tentative steps out of lockdown and emerge blinking into a world where everything is suddenly full of new dangers and so much needs to change, there are questions to ask today:-

Firstly:- how does your faith help you cope? Take time to reflect on this in the coming days and open yourself to the healing, empowering presence of God.

Secondly: - What will church look like in the coming days? Pray for wisdom as we explore new ways of relating together.

Thirdly:- How can we support the victims of this pandemic, those who have lost their jobs or loved ones, and especially those in other nations who do not have the welfare state or health service to rely on.

Song: Jesus be the centre.

<https://youtu.be/EG-I1kK-BpU>

Jesus, be the centre
Be my source, be my light
Jesus

Jesus, be the centre
Be my hope, be my song
Jesus

Be the fire in my heart
Be the wind in these sails
Be the reason that I live
Jesus, Jesus

Jesus, be my vision
Be my path, be my guide
Jesus

Be the fire in my heart
Be the wind in these sails
Be the reason that I live

Let us pray

Pray for our nation's leaders. Whatever we may think of them, they are what we have got and they need Gods wisdom and humility to lead us through these days.

YOUR SPIRIT COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE.

Pray for church leaders locally and nationally. East Midlands Baptist Association are holding a video conference for Church leaders on Thursday to help explore how to be church in the new normal.

YOUR SPIRIT COME; YOUR WILL BE DONE.

Pray for the world and particularly for those who have no access to unemployment pay or health services. BMS has called for this to be Solidarity Sunday that we may pray for the work the churches are doing to support the poorest of the world's peoples. Pray for their work in Uganda, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.

YOUR SPIRIT COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE.

Song Great is the darkness

<https://youtu.be/6WfNa71KpOM>

GREAT IS THE DARKNESS that covers the earth,

Oppression, injustice and pain.
Nations are slipping in hopeless despair,
Though many have come in Your name.
Watching while sanity dies,
Touched by the madness and lies.

*Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,
Pour out Your Spirit we pray.
Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,
Pour out Your Spirit on us today.*

May now Your church rise with power and love,
This glorious gospel proclaim.
In every nation salvation will come
To those who believe in Your name.
Help us bring light to this world
That we might speed Your return.

Great celebrations on that final day
When out of the heavens You come.
Darkness will vanish, all sorrow will end,
And rulers will bow at Your throne.
Our great commission complete,
Then face to face we shall meet.

Lords prayer

Blessing

May the Spirit of the living God give fire to our faith, Breathe new life into our worship, Give new power to our witness, and the Blessing of God almighty, Father Son and Holy Spirit will rest upon us, Now and for evermore. Amen

If you have another 15minutes to spare now or later in the day, and want to develop these themes further, BMS has a very good sermon and resources following this link:

<https://vimeo.com/421000081>

Pray with us for the global Covid-19 Coronavirus response



- **Pray that God will stop the spread of the virus.** Pray that those who are ill or displaying symptoms will be healed, and that the Lord will bless the work of all those developing a treatment and a vaccine.
- **Pray for the response to the virus around the world.** Pray that the Lord will keep NHS workers safe, as well as other healthcare workers across the world also risking their lives in the fight against the Coronavirus. Pray especially for workers in countries that are particularly vulnerable, such as Chad and Afghanistan.
- **Pray for people living and working under lockdown around the world.** Pray also for people across the world who are unable to work and are struggling to support themselves and their families. Pray for BMS-supported work offering food relief in places like Tunisia, Bangladesh and Albania, that it will help vulnerable people get through this difficult time.
- **Pray for governments and leaders across the world.** Pray that they will make wise, pro-active decisions that will benefit all their countries and the global community.
- **Pray for BMS mission workers and UK staff.** Pray for mission workers who have returned to the UK, that they will be able to continue their work as best they can remotely. Pray for workers who are still overseas, that the Coronavirus will not prevent them from carrying out their vital work.

BMS World Mission is already responding to the Covid-19 Coronavirus crisis and is helping to co-ordinate a global Baptist response. Visit www.bmsworldmission.org/coronavirus-appeal if you would like to donate. Your gifts will be used to support BMS' Coronavirus response all over the world, through our partners and mission workers.