



# The Sunday Supplement

Issue 11: 30th May 2020



## Call to Worship

The Spirit descends like a dove,  
bringing peace to unite the world  
in a just and caring community.

The Spirit comes like a breath,  
bringing life to renew the people of God.

The Spirit spreads like fire,  
bringing energy for witnessing to the love of God.  
Spirit of the living God,  
come to us and transform our lives by your power.

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## Reading

Acts 2:14-24



Thy Kingdom Come Is about change: the great change that occurs in a person's life when they accept Jesus as Lord and welcome him as Saviour, Master and Friend. Scripture assures us that at that moment they become part of the Kingdom of God's beloved Son. So, we

pray each year between Ascension Day and Pentecost Sunday that families, friends, communities and countries would come to know the saving love of God in Jesus Christ.

As Thy Kingdom Come takes place this year our world faces the challenge of Covid-19 alongside issues including climate change, poverty and injustice. All those things bring into sharp focus the world's need of Jesus and the call of God on us to pray for transformation and, as Christ calls us into his Kingdom, to become agents of that transformation in the world he loves.

The focus for our prayers this year is Prayer and Care. We are reminded that we must not only pray for those in need but should also be actively caring for them.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you taught us to love our neighbour,  
and to care for those in need  
as if we were caring for you.  
In this time of anxiety, give us strength  
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,  
and to assure the isolated  
of our love, and your love,  
for your name's sake. Amen.  
God of compassion,  
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in  
isolation.  
In their loneliness, be their consolation;  
in their anxiety, be their hope;  
in their darkness, be their light;  
through him who suffered alone on the  
cross,  
but reigns with you in glory,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We are not people of fear: we are people  
of courage.  
We are not people who protect our own  
safety:  
we are people who protect our  
neighbours' safety.  
We are not people of greed: we are  
people of generosity.  
We are your people God, giving and  
loving,  
wherever we are, whatever it costs  
For as long as it takes and wherever you  
call us. Amen

## *Thought for the week*



Seven weeks have passed since Easter Sunday. Through the long weeks a small but faithful group have met behind closed doors to pray together. Some have seen and spoken to the risen Christ. Apostles have been commissioned by Jesus and affirmed in leadership roles by the gathered community. As the Jewish Feast of Pentecost is celebrated the group remain together in prayer. They wait for they know not what. They hold fast to the promise of Jesus. The God who raised Jesus from the dead will act when the time is right.

Right there in Jerusalem a committed community of faith was transformed. God's spirit met them right where they were and suddenly everything changed. Anxious but prayerful people found their voices and spoke of all that God had done. On that day, Simon the fisherman stepped forward and became Peter the preacher. The waiting was over. The moment had arrived.

As May turns to June this year Christians across the country are waiting. Eleven weeks have passed since we were last able to gather for worship with fellow believers. We now gather virtually, each of us behind our own front door. During this time apart we have discovered ways to share in worship and to care for one another in these challenging times. Like the early Christians on this Pentecost Sunday we remain together in prayer. We wait for we know not what. We hold fast to the promise of Jesus. The God who raised Jesus from the dead will act when the time is right.

Pentecost changes everything. The movement of the Holy Spirit in and through the Christian community overturns all expectations. Sometimes, as happened on the first Christian Pentecost, that movement is powerful, dramatic, and widespread. At other times, as the Old Testament prophets knew, the Spirit comes as a still, small voice like a gentle breeze. One thing only is certain. When God's spirit meets us everything changes. Anxiety melts away. We cannot help but speak of all that God has done.

Much will change in the coming weeks. Across Britain people wait anxiously for news and information. So much is unclear in these uncertain times. As members of the Christian community we share the anxieties of those around us. We wait in hope, holding fast to the promise of Jesus.

This Pentecost we remain together in prayer in whatever ways we can. We trust the God who raised Jesus from the dead to act when the time is right. And without knowing how or when it might happen, we wait for God's Spirit to move in and through his praying people, bringing change and renewal to our anxious world.

# Blessing

May you trust in God's promises to his people:  
peace  
security  
blessing  
even when they are difficult to believe.

May you know that God's news is good news,  
nourishing  
true  
even when people tell you it is not.

And when you encounter doubt,  
may you strengthen your belief  
guiding you in his perfect wisdom and counsel.

*~ posted on Jeff's Blog. <https://blog.wisch.org/category/benedictions-and-prayers/>*

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## Go forth and tell

Go forth and tell! O church of God, awake!  
God's saving news to all the nations take;  
proclaim Christ Jesus, saviour, Lord, and  
king,  
that all the world his worthy praise may  
sing.

Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;  
he will in grace respond to all who call:  
how shall they call if they have never heard  
the gracious invitation of his word?

Go forth and tell where still the darkness  
lies;  
in wealth or want, the sinner surely dies:  
give us, O Lord, concern of heart and mind,  
a love like yours which cares for all  
mankind.

Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide:  
share God's good gifts let no one be denied;  
live out your life as Christ your Lord shall  
choose,  
your ransomed powers for his sole glory  
use.

Go forth and tell! O church of God, arise!  
go in the strength which Christ your Lord  
supplies;  
go till all nations his great name adore  
and serve him, Lord and king for evermore

