

WELCOME AND NOTICES

- Thanks to those who came to the maintenance morning yesterday.
- Today at 4pm - Prayer Walk (starting at the church, lasting approx. 1 hour)
- Tuesday 7 June at 1.30pm the funeral of Lee Butt will take place at the church.
- Wednesday 1 June - 7.30pm - Christianity Explored
- Thursday 2 June - 2.30pm-4.30pm - Jubilee Tea Dance on the church patio (organised by the Ruin Trust)
- Sunday 5 June - 3pm - Jubilee Street Party (in the community garden)
- Sat-Sun 25-26 June - Arts Festival.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Praise and honour, glory and might,
to him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, for ever.

Jesus said, 'John baptised with water,
but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit' (Acts 1:5).

OPENING PRAYER

Loving Lord Jesus, you called on your disciples to wait for your promised Holy Spirit and then you ascended to heaven. So, we wait on you today with loving and expectant hearts and lift our eyes to your throne. Fill this place with your presence and our lives with your truth, and set our hearts on fire with love for you; to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

SONGS:

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, our God and King

His love endures forever.

For he is good, he is above all things.

His love endures forever.

Sing praise, sing praise.

With a mighty hand and an outstretched arm,

His love endures forever.

For the life that's been reborn.

His love endures forever.

Sing praise, sing praise.

Sing praise, sing praise.

Forever God is faithful, forever God is strong,

Forever God is with us, forever.

From the rising to the setting sun,

His love endures forever.

By the grace of God, we will carry on.

His love endures forever.

Sing praise, sing praise.

Sing praise, sing praise.

STRENGTH WILL RISE as we wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

(repeat).

Our God, you reign forever

Our hope, our strong deliverer

You are the everlasting God

The everlasting God, You will not faint

You won't grow weary

You're the defender of the weak

You comfort those in need

You lift us up on wings like eagles

They that wait upon the Lord

Shall renew their strength

They shall mount up with wings as eagles

They shall run and not be weary

They shall walk and not faint

Teach us Lord Teach us Lord to wait.

CONFESSION

Lord, we confess our sins to you.

For the things we have thought, said and done which have brought pain to you, to others and to ourselves

Forgive us, Lord

For the things we have not thought, said and done which have also brought pain to you, to others and to ourselves

Forgive us, Lord

We claim your promised forgiveness
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God is faithful and just and declares our sins to be forgiven.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

5th SUNDAY GIVING: THANKSGIVING

OFFERTORY

We dedicate ourselves and our gifts to you. Strengthen us by your Spirit to do your will, and bring us with all your saints to the glory of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR SUNDAY CLUB

We dedicate our children and their leaders to you. Open their eyes to your truth and love; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Song/Hymn

**BE THOU MY VISION, O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;
Be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word,
Be Thou ever with me, and I with Thee, Lord;
Be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;**

Be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;

Be Thou my whole armour, be Thou my true might;

Be Thou my soul's shelter, be Thou my strong tower:

O raise Thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I need not, nor man's empty praise:

Be Thou mine inheritance now and always;

Be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart:

O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun,

O grant me its joys after victory is won;

Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,

Still be Thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

READING: John 14:15-27

As we now listen to your Word, open our hearts to your truth and love; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

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 for ever – 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 realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my

Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.'

²² Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, 'But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?'

²³ Jesus replied, 'Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

²⁵ 'All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But 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.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

REFLECTION: WAIT FOR THE PROMISE (5) **Jesus promises the Holy Spirit**

We come today to the end of our latest sermon series. Since Easter we have been looking at the theme 'Wait for the promise'. Jesus said, 'wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit' (Acts 1:4-5). Today we look at Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit.

This promise of the Spirit is within the context of love for Jesus. For Jesus there is only one test of love for him, and that is the

test of obedience. "If you love me, you will obey what I command" (v15). It was through his own obedience to the Father that Jesus showed his love. 'The world must learn that I love the Father and I do exactly what my Father has commanded me,' remarked Jesus (v31). It is by our obedience to Jesus' words that we show our love for the Father. And love here isn't sentiment or emotion, it is love in action.

Now to love Jesus by obeying his word is not easy, which is why Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to come alongside us. The word used of the Spirit in the Greek text is *parakletos*. Our reading from the New International Version of the Bible translates this word 'Advocate.' Other translations say 'Counsellor' or 'Comforter' or 'Helper'. Understanding this one word can help us understand Jesus' promise to us and role of the Holy Spirit within us.

Parakletos means 'someone who is called in' or 'someone who is called alongside.' Para meaning with or alongside. Yet, it is the reason why the Holy Spirit is called in or alongside that makes what Jesus said here in John 14 that much clearer. The word could be used in a whole variety of ways. A *parakletos* might be called in to give witness in a court of law, or might be called in to plead someone's cause when they are charged with a serious offence. A *parakletos* might be an expert witness called in to advise the court in a difficult trial. However, a *parakletos* might be called to bolster soldiers who were dispirited, in order that they would become more courageous and ready for the next challenge. Always a *parakletos* was someone called in to help.

Therefore, with this understanding of the Holy Spirit, what Jesus is saying is this: “I am setting you a difficult task, but I am not sending you out on your own. My Spirit will be with you. I am sending you the *parakletos* who will guide you so you know what to do, and he will give you the strength and wisdom you need to do it. The Holy Spirit will bring you the truth and will help you in the battle for the truth.”

Now the world does not and indeed cannot recognise the Spirit’s work. The world Jesus is referring to are those people who live as though God doesn’t exist. Jesus said, ‘The world cannot accept him, [the Holy Spirit] because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you’ (John 14:15-17).

So how come they cannot see the Holy Spirit at work? Take my astronomical binoculars. When I look at the night sky through them I can see stars behind stars, stars that are not visible to the naked eye. It’s amazing! However, I often don’t know what I’m looking at. Yet an astronomer will know exactly what I’m looking at because they have spent years studying the night sky. Similarly, I remember my doctor saying that he always went out to the reception to get his patients because he could tell a lot about their health just by the way they moved. Now, I with my untrained eye couldn’t notice what my doctor saw. Let me give another example. When I go to an art gallery, I just look and see pictures I like or don’t like. But Rachel is able to look much more deeply and understand the painting more fully than me because she has studied art history and I haven’t.

The person who has never looked into the Christian faith but has simply dismissed it will not recognise the working of the Holy Spirit. Even the person who has become a Christian and follows Christ but never waits in silence and in prayerful expectation for the Holy Spirit or is too busy to listen or too rushed give the Holy Spirit a chance to enter in, they will not easily recognise the work of the Spirit. This comes back to obedience and to love. “He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him” (v21). You see the work of the Holy Spirit, as promised by Jesus, was to reveal Jesus to us, and that is still his work.

And this is the Spirit that Jesus promises to each one of us. “But 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” (John 14:26). The Father sends the Spirit in the name of Jesus to teach us his truth, to lead us deeper and deeper into the truth of God. Hunger for God, hunger for God’s Word, hunger for prayer is a surefire sign of the Spirit’s activity. The work of the Holy Spirit is to teach us, guide us and reveal to us all God’s truth in Jesus.

On Thursday it was the feast of the Ascension, when we celebrated Jesus’ return to his Heavenly Father. What does today’s promise of the Holy Spirit have to do with Ascension? In this passage Jesus said, “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you” (v18). Although Jesus left, it was the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus who came and filled those disciples on the day of Pentecost. Next Sunday is Pentecost, and we will see what happened when the Spirit came. But for now, will you wait for

the promised Holy Spirit? Will you wait every day?

PRAYERS

Ascended Lord, we pray for the Church throughout the world, and especially church leaders who carry responsibility before you. We pray for Bishop Graham, Methodist District Minister Julian Pursehouse, Baptist Regional Minister Beth Powney, and URC Moderator Lythan Nevard, that they may know your close presence as they seek to serve your Church. We pray for the persecuted church scattered throughout the world, and ask for courage, endurance and hope for them. We especially pray for those who dare to witness to the good news of your salvation despite threats and even death.

Your Kingdom Come,
Come Holy Spirit

Ascended Lord, in this time between Ascension and Pentecost, we pray for our friends who've not yet responded to your love and mercy. We pray that your Spirit may be at work in them to open their eyes to the truth of your gospel. We pray you would equip us and inspire us to share the Good News with our friends, families, our communities and wherever we find ourselves, through word and action and with great joy.

Your Kingdom Come
Come Holy Spirit

Ascended Lord, we pray for our politicians and public officials. We ask that in humility they may receive wisdom and walk in truth. We pray for the ongoing war in Ukraine, that true peace may once again be over that nation. We pray for the families and friends of those who were brutally killed at a school in Texas and ask that the

nation would have the courage to change their gun laws.

Your Kingdom Come
Come Holy Spirit

Ascended Lord, we rejoice that you have welcomed those who have departed this life in your faith and love, and given them a share in your eternal kingdom. May they rest in you and rise in glory. We pray for those whom they have left behind, that they may turn to you in times of sorrow and find the comfort and strength which you offer. We especially pray for the family of Lee Butt, that in their shock and grief they may know the truth that Lee is safe in your presence.

Your Kingdom Come
Come Holy Spirit

Being made one in the power of the Spirit, let us pray with confidence as we say together the Lord's Prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done on earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

SONG:

**LORD, WE LONG FOR YOU to move in
power
There's A Hunger Deep Within Our
Hearts
To See Healing In Our Nation
Send Your Spirit To Revive Us**

WAIT FOR THE PROMISE (5)
Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit – John 14:15-27
29th May 2022



Heal Our Nation
Heal Our Nation
Heal Our Nation
Pour Out Your Spirit On This Land

Lord We Hear Your Spirit, Coming Closer
A Mighty Wave To Break Upon Our Land
Bringing Justice, And Forgiveness
God We Cry To You, 'Revive Us'

Heal Our Nation...

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

Loving God, we thank you for the Ascension of Jesus and the promise of the Holy Spirit. Fill us afresh that we may walk in your ways of truth and love and go out into your world to make Christ known.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.