*St Barnabas with Christ Church: Sunday 17th May: 6th Sunday of Easter*

**Welcome to**

**Sunday Breakfast: Sunday Lunch: Sunday Tea:**

**Sunday Breakfast: (prepared by Steve O’Rourke)**

Over the next few weeks, we’re leading towards Pentecost. This is a time when we think about the gift of the Holy Spirit, and we also focus on prayer - thinking about those disciples waiting in the upper room and about the power of God.

So, I’d like us to think about prayer today. There are lots of ways to pray, but rather than thinking about how we pray, let’s think today about why we pray. What is prayer? What is it for?

But let’s not just think about prayer, let’s pray about prayer.

Below is a series of questions. I want you to think about your answer but I also encourage you to pray and ask God what his answer might be. Now, prayer is a mystery, we can’t expect all the answers, but the Bible lists wisdom, knowledge and understanding as some of the gifts God gives us through the Holy Spirit, so let’s not be surprised if he gives these to us!

***Holy Spirit, we ask for wisdom, knowledge and understanding as we think about prayer today. Amen.***

Now, spend a little while prayerfully considering these questions. You may find it helpful to write down your answers.

* *What is God like? - What is his character?*
* *What does God want? - For the world, for us…*
* *What is the purpose of prayer? - What does it do?*
* *Should I start praying a certain prayer, or in a certain way?*
* *Is God saying anything else to encourage me or teach me about prayer?*

I hope you found that helpful.

*(Steve O’Rourke)*

**Sunday Lunch: Christian Aid 2020**

O Lord, open our lips

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

He is risen!

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**Hymn**

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair.
Lord, in the suffering, this is our prayer;
bread for the children, justice, joy, peace.
Sunrise to sunset, your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills.
Work for the craftsman, trade for their skills.
Land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak.
Voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.

*God of the poor,* *friend of the weak,*
*give us compassion we pray.*
*Melt our cold hearts*, *let tears fall like rain.*
*Come, change our love* *from a spark to a flame.*

Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear.
Cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share.
Peace to the killing-fields, scorched earth to green.
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth. Oceans and streams
plundered and poisoned; our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed.
Make us content with the things that we need.

Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame;
until your justice burns brightly again.
Until the nations learn of your ways
Seek your salvation and bring you their praise.

*Graham Kendrick
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**Collect for the Peace of the World**

Almighty God,

from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed:

Kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, the true love of peace

And guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom

Those who take counsel for the nations of the earth

That in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward,

Till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## Gospel Reading John 14:15-21: The Promise of the Holy Spirit

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.

In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

**Reflection:**

As we think of both Christian Aid Week and the coming of the Holy Spirit, I am reminded of the last verse of Graham Kendrick’s hymn:

*Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame;
until your justice burns brightly again.
Until the nations learn of your ways,
seek your salvation and bring you their praise.*

The Holy Spirit like flames of love, light and purity come to help us pray and act to bring in God’s Kingdom of justice, mercy and peace. Yet how can we do this work at the moment?

On Pentecost Sunday we shall be reminded that the disciples were told to wait until the Spirit of Truth, the Advocate, the Holy Spirit to come for them and in these days, us. The Holy Spirit knew what the disciples needed in order for them to do what was required to preach the gospel in their day and in order for them to realise that Jesus was not going to abandon them, and so they could reach out in Christian love and service to those in their community and eventually the world. The Holy Spirit knows what is required for us to do and know the same, in these days. The thing which is the same for us now as for the disciples then, is that we wait, watch and pray...and what the disciples would’ve done to have the means to share Christian love as the work of Christian Aid does today!

So since we have little choice but to watch, wait and pray for the Holy Spirit to come, let’s do that. And since we have Christian Aid in order to enable the answers to our prayers to be realised, let’s support them too. And if you want to give some money and can’t give online, keep that money by; the need will still be there when we are allowed out again and you’ll still be able to give in that way.

**Prayers**

In faith, hope and love, let us pray:

### *Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession from the Christian Aid 2020 website.*

For the health workers tending the seriously ill

for the scientists working on a vaccination

for the researchers analysing data and identifying trends

for the media outlets working to communicate reality

for the supermarket workers, hygiene and sanitation providers

for the good news stories of recoveries and effective planning

for the singing from balconies by locked-down communities

for the recognition that isolation doesn’t need to mean loneliness

for the notes through letterboxes offering help and support

for the internet and telephones and technology that connects

for the awakened appreciation of what is truly important

Thanks be to God.

 For those who are unwell and concerned for loved ones

for those who were already very anxious

for those immune suppressed or compromised

for those vulnerable because of underlying conditions

for those in the ‘most at risk to coronavirus’ categories

for those watching their entire income stream dry up

for those who have no choice but to go out to work

for those who are afraid to be at home

for those who are more lonely than they've ever been

for those who are bereaved and grieving.

God be their healer, comfort and protection,

be their strength, shield and provision

be their security, safety and close companion

And raise up your Church

to be your well-washed hands and faithful feet

to be present to the pain

to respond with love in action

if even from a safe distance.

We pray to the Lord;

**God is faithful and gracious.**

*For those who have asked for our prayers:*

From the church prayer board: Kate, Rowena, Sharon, Doris; Colin, for nurses getting sick; for people who can’t go out;

that we may be able to be with family and friends again and that the lockdown will end and at the right time; that we shall all be safe and children back at school.

We pray to the Lord;

**God is faithful and gracious.**

*And from our church family:*

Georgia Bristow; Netta Mann; Janet; Rhodri; Mary Pritchard; Pennie Baird-Parker; Aileen Thompson; Tom Strain; Nicholas Mann; Ria Harris; Isla; Phil; Aileen Brown; Clare.

That he may reveal the light of his presence to these and all who aresick, in body, mind and spirit: for those who are caring for them and watching and waiting with them. NHS, care homes, families, friends.

We pray to the Lord;

**God is faithful and gracious.**

We pray for those who have died recently: Lorraine, Peggy, Sheila, Margaret, Phyllis, Jean.

**May they rest in peace and rise in glory.**

We pray to the Lord;

**God is faithful and gracious.**

Help us in these days to watch, wait and respond to the work of the Holy Spirit in our land, in our church and in our hearts: cleanse and purify us for the work you call us to do, and help us as the wind of the Holy Spirit blows wherever she will.

Our Father....

**Responsory**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Abide in my love: **Love one another. Keep my word.**

Let not your hearts be troubled: **neither let them be afraid.**

**The peace of God**

**which passes all understanding**

**keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge**

**and love of his son of Jesus our Lord**

**and the blessing of God,**

**be with us all evermore. Amen**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

**Amen, amen, amen.**

**Sunday Tea:**

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night

and a perfect end to the day. **Amen**

Our help is in the name of the Lord

**Who made heaven and earth.**

The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want.

He makes me lie in pastures green.

He leads me by the still, still waters,

His good ness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in you alone*

*And I will trust in you alone,*

*For your endless mercy follows me,*

*Your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my way in righteousness.

And he anoints my head with oil,

And my cup, it overflows with joy,

I feast on his pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,

I will not fear the evil one,

For you are with me, and your rod and staff

Are the comfort I need to know.

My soul waits for the Lord more than those
who watch for the morning, more than those
who watch for the morning.

*Call*: Out of the depths I have cried to You.
*Response*: O Lord, hear my voice.
*Call*: With my whole heart I want to praise You.
*Response*: O Lord, hear my voice.
*Call*: If you, Lord, should mark iniquities:
*Response*: Who could stand? who could stand?

I will wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in His word do I hope.

**Expressions of faith**
Lord, You have always given
bread for the coming day;
and though I am poor,
today I believe.

Lord, You have always given
strength for the coming day;
and though I am weak,
today I believe.

Lord, You have always given
peace for the coming day;
and though of anxious heart,
today I believe.

Lord, You have always kept
me safe in trials;
and now, tried as I am,
today I believe.

Lord, You have always marked
the road for the coming day;
and though it may be hidden,
today I believe.

Lord, You have always lightened
this darkness of mine;
and though the night is here,
today I believe.

Lord, You have always spoken
when time was ripe;
and though you be silent now,
today I believe.

**Psalm 36: 5-10**

***Response to the Psalm is: With you, O God, is the well of life.***

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
   your faithfulness to the clouds.
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
   your judgements are like the great deep;
   you save humans and animals alike, O Lord. ***R****.*

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
   All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
They feast on the abundance of your house,
   and you give them drink from the river of your delights.
For with you is the fountain of life;
   in your light we see light. ***R****.*

***With you, O God, is the well of life.***

O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
   and your salvation to the upright of heart! ***R.***

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning is now**

**and shall be for ever. Amen**

**Prayers**

Save us, O Lord, while waking

And guard us while sleeping

That awake we may watch with Christ

And asleep may rest in peace.

Visit this place, O Lord we pray

And drive far from it the snares of the enemy;

May your holy angels dwell with us

and guard us in peace,

And may your blessing be always upon us;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Blessing**

The Lord bless us and watch over us

The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us

The Lord look kindly on us and give us peace. Amen

*Sources:*

Common Worship: Daily Prayer CHP © Archbishop’s Council 2005. *Evening Prayer from Northumbria Community’s Celtic Daily Prayer published by Collins.’*

**Supplement for 6th Sunday of Easter**

**The Prayer Course:**

Structured around the Lord’s Prayer this course will run for 8 sessions, each of which will be made up of a 20 minute video produced by the movement 24-7 Prayer, and can be watched in your own time. Each week you can receive a video call with a small group through SKYPE for a discussion. Depending on how many people sign up will depend on how many call leaders there will be.

Sign up through Steve O’Rourke’s email address and he will let us all know what to expect and when to begin: steveandrhi@gmail.com.

**Andy Hall made his profession to become a Tertiary Francisican** by zoom:

*Andrew is invested with the cross.*

Take this cross in token that you, Andrew, are crucified with Christ,

yet live by faith in the Son of God, who loved you and gave himself for the

life of the world. Wear it as the sign that you are a professed member of

the Third Order.

*The candidates are raised to their feet to make their Vow of Profession*:

I, Andrew, give myself to our Lord Jesus Christ, to serve him for the rest of

my life in company with my brothers and sisters in the Third Order of the

Society of St Francis, seeking to spread the knowledge and love of Christ,

to promote the spirit of love and harmony as the family of God and to live

joyfully a life of simplicity and humble service after the example of St

Francis.

 Well done Andy: Pray for us!

*(See the June magazine for more of Andy’s story)*

**Worcester Cathedral will be praying for us:**

St Barnabas with Christ Church on Monday 18th May

Tolladine Mission on Tuesday 19th May.

**Daily Hope Phone Line** *(thanks to Rhianne O’Rourke)*



**A friend of St Barnabas Church, Connie Lightowler**, sent us an e-card encouraging us to support Christian Aid. It might have been CA Week last week, but the work still goes on! To pick up our card, click on the link below:

[https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/eyJlbnZlbG9wZSI6NDc3MywgImNoYW5uZWwiOiJjb3B5In0=](https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/eyJlbnZlbG9wZSI6NDc3MywgImNoYW5uZWwiOiJjb3B5In0%3D)

