



Sunday 14 June 2020
Worship for Pentecost 2



Setting the Scene

We are called to work for the kingdom, but we cannot do it exactly as the disciples did. As restrictions are eased, and we start making tentative steps back out into the world, what do you need to take with you and what can be left behind? Design a pilgrim badge, and wear it as you prepare for the next stage of the journey.

HYMN (CH4 616): There's a spirit in the air

Prayer of approach to God

Be honest with God about how it feels to be expected to carry on the work of the Kingdom without Jesus here in person. Share your weaknesses and your fears, but also your own special gifts. Ask God for the strength you will need.

Bible Reading: Matthew 10: 1-15 The sending out of the Twelve
Read the whole story, more than once if you need to. Is there anything that stands out, surprises you, puzzles you or speaks to you today?

Reflection:

v.2: 'these are the names of the 12' *Reflect on what we know about this unlikely collection of saints. God does not call us for our strength, status or wisdom, but because we need to rely on him (1 Corinthians 1: 26-31)*
 vv. 9-10 'don't carry any money or a beggar's bag.' *Do we need to rethink our attitudes to money & possessions (incl. church buildings) & trust God more?*
 V. 14 'shake the dust off your feet' *Not all our efforts will be 'successful'. Can we accept that, without guilt or blame, and move on?*

Prayers for ourselves and others

Pray for each of the churches in the Braes area, and for all of us together, as we look not just for new ways, but for God's way of working for the Kingdom in these challenging times. Pray for the Church, and for the Kingdom, remembering that these two may overlap but are not the same.

The Lord's Prayer

HYMN (CH4 509): Jesus calls us. O'er the tumult

Blessing

May God's blessing be upon us,
 and upon all our work and worship done in his name.
 May he give us light to guide us; courage to support us;
 and love to unite us, now and for evermore. Amen

Sunday 24 May 2020
Worship for Easter 7



Setting the Scene

If you have clay or plasticine, make a model of praying hands. Or you can be really crafty and make your own playdough (8 tbsp. flour, 2 tbsp. salt, 1 tbsp oil, kneaded with warm water. As you are doing so, think of Jesus, or someone you know, who is praying for you. Put the model in your worship space.

HYMN (MP 54): Bind us together, Lord

Prayer of approach to God

Relax, and allow yourself to be prayed for - by me, by friends, by church members throughout the world; by Christ himself. You don't have to do all the work!

Bible Reading: John 17: 1-11 Jesus prays for his disciples
Read the whole story, more than once if you need to. Is there anything that stands out, surprises you, puzzles you or speaks to you today?

Reflection:

v. 1 'Father, the hour has come...' *Jesus was getting ready to say goodbye. So are we, and it isn't easy. It helps to know that he understands.*
 v. 11 'I am no longer in the world... but they are'. *Amidst all the future planning, this is who the church is, and what it is for - continuing Christ's presence in the world. How can we do that in lockdown - and after?*
 v. 11 'keep them safe... so that they may be one' *Keeping safe for us means being apart. Remember that we are still one, united in the Spirit.*

Prayers for ourselves and others

Pray for all who are in one place, while their friends are in another; for those preparing to say goodbye and those who have already done so. Ask God to keep you safe, in body, mind and spirit. Give thanks that we are not alone. We are one in him.

The Lord's Prayer

HYMN (CH4 560): Jesus, the very thought of thee

Blessing

May the love of Christ draw us to himself;
 May the power of Christ strengthen us in his service;
 May the joy of Christ enliven us;
 May the peace of Christ mend our brokenness and make us one. Amen

Sunday 31 May 2020
Worship for Pentecost Sunday



Setting the Scene

Using the diagrams provided, make a windmill and a dove (or lots of them!) to represent the different ways in which we experience God's Spirit. You could also light a candle for the 'tongues of fire' - but be careful!

HYMN (CH4 194): This is the day

Prayer of approach to God

Pray for the coming of God's Spirit, in your own life, in the church and in the world - but only if you are willing to accept the joyful disruption this may bring. Be careful what you ask for - your prayers may be answered!

Bible Reading: John 20: 19-23 & Acts 2: 1-13 The coming of the Spirit
Read both stories, more than once if you need to. Is there anything that stands out, surprises you, puzzles you or speaks to you today?

Reflection:

John and Acts give very different accounts of how the Spirit was given to the disciples: one quiet and intimate; one loud and public. It is not the same for everyone. How has it been for you? How would you like it to be? The church is worried about decline; desperate for a growth in numbers, but this is God's doing, not ours. What signs are there of God's spirit at work in a world where big crowds can no longer gather? What new surprises does she have in store?

Prayers for ourselves and others

Pray for the Church, forced by this crisis (and by God's Spirit) to face the fact that times have changed, and the old ways will no longer do. Give thanks for imaginative, new ways that have been found of worshipping and supporting one another. Pray for church leaders, having to manage decline while praying for growth. Pray for each other. Give thanks for the Spirit in whom we are one.

The Lord's Prayer

HYMN (CH4 596): Breathe on me, breath of God

Blessing

*May the Spirit come to you as dove of peace;
as wind to disturb you; as fire to warm you;
as breath of life to bring you fully alive,
part of the living body of Christ in the world. Amen*

Sunday 7 June 2020
Worship for Trinity Sunday



Setting the Scene

Legend has it that St Patrick used a shamrock, with its three leaves on one stem, to explain the mystery of the Trinity. Father, Son & Holy Spirit; Creator, Word & Wisdom; Lover, Beloved and Love... Which image speaks to you? Don't try too hard to understand. Find some clover (3-leaved, not 4!), plait three strands of wool together, or use the Celtic symbol to lead you into the deep mystery of God's being.

HYMN (CH4 111): Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty

Prayer of approach to God

If human words could describe God, it would not be God that we were describing. So don't try to find words big enough; simply be in God's presence and allow the mystery to draw you into worship.

Bible Reading: Matthew 28: 16-20 & Luke 24: 36-49

Read both stories, more than once if you need to. Is there anything that stands out, surprises you, puzzles you or speaks to you today?

Reflection:

In Matthew's gospel, the risen Jesus tells the disciples to go out immediately to 'make disciples'; in Luke he tells them to 'wait until the Spirit comes.' There is a time for acting, and a time for waiting. We have been forced by a virus into stopping most of the activities we thought were so essential. Is God trying to tell us something? How can we use the waiting time well? How will we recognise the Spirit calling us forward? Where will this new adventure lead?

Prayers for ourselves and others

Pray for those who are natural 'doers' and fixers, frustrated by all they cannot do just now; and for those who need to be pushed into action. Pray for the Marthas and Marys that you know, and for yourself. Ask for patience to wait, and wisdom to recognise the 'power from on high' when it comes from God.

The Lord's Prayer

HYMN (CH4 248): For my sake and the gospel's, go

Blessing

*The guarding of the God of life be on you;
the guarding of the loving Christ be on you;
the guarding of the Holy Spirit be on you,
to aid you and enfold you each day and each night of your lives. Amen*