

Welcome again to our Worship at Home service for Sunday 10th May 2026. Remember that, when you read the prayers, hymns and reflection, you will be joining others in the South West Peninsula District in worshipping and praising God.

Prayer of approach.

Lord, not only we do not come to worship you because we must, but because we want to and you want us to.

We come not because we are worthy, but to give you the love and glory you deserve. So, Father, bless everyone again today who meet for worship, wherever they are. Amen

Hymn S t F 28

Jesus calls us here to meet him
as, through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence
where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise.
Praise the Son who calls us friends.
Praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our fears and hopes attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of life and Lord of all,
sharer of our flesh and frailness,
saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy human story,
tell his tales all may hear,
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other,
vastly different though we are;
creed and colour, class and gender
neither limit nor debar.
Join the hand of friend or stranger,
join the hands of age and youth,
join the faithful and the doubter
in their common search for truth.

Jesus calls us to his table
rotted firm in time and space,
where the Church in earth and heaven
finds a common meeting place.
Share the bread and wine, his body,
share the love of which we sing;
share the feast for saints and sinners
hosted by our Lord and King.

John L. Bell (b1949) and Graham Maule (b.1958)

Let us pray together.

Father, you are greater than anything we can imagine, more wonderful than our deepest joy, more powerful than anything we have known. Yours is the authority that is always intended to create.

Yours is the sovereignty that holds all things in the palm of your hand.

Yours is the love that continually seeks to bring everyone, everywhere, into the joy of perfect fellowship with you, and we have come to lay our lives before you, as we declare we love you, our God.

Father, we praise you for you demonstrate your authority, sovereignty and love in the life, death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus. Amen

Today's readings

Acts 7: 55-60 Psalm 21: 1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2: 2-10 John 14: 15-21

Reflection on the Gospel

At supper, Jesus told his disciples that he was going to leave them, and quite naturally, they are anxious and bewildered.

Jesus speaks to them words of encouragement and comfort by saying that his Father-God-will send them someone to take his place, another helper, who would stay with them for ever.

The Greek word for "helper" in the Good News Bible is very hard to translate, but other translations use "Comforter", "Advocate", or this one "Counsellor". The meaning behind the original Greek is of someone who is called in to help in times of need.

Jesus is speaking of the Holy Spirit, whom he calls "Another helper", because the Spirit will help and work in different ways from himself.

In chapter 16 and verses 5-16, we read of "the work of the Holy Spirit".

This conversation between Jesus and the disciples is not long before the crucifixion and resurrection, so we hear Jesus telling the disciples again what was going to happen to him.

The disciples have been with Jesus all the time and had seen him at work, and they had listened to his teaching. As a human being, Jesus had been subject to the constraints of time and place.

The Holy Spirit, on the other hand, will be with the followers of Jesus ALL the time, wherever they are. Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to all who love him and kept his commandments.

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THEY WILL NOT BE LEFT ALONE. Whether or not they were aware of it or understood what Jesus said we don't know. And that is the same promise made to humans today, with us all of the time.

The Spirit will be there to guide, strengthen and encourage ALL generations. Do **you** feel that the Spirit has helped you in this way?

Having told the disciples that the Father will send another helper, Jesus tells them that he would be coming back, and they will see him, and this is what we celebrated last month on Easter Day, the glorious Resurrection. But he was only with them physically for a few days.

God, who had been present with them, incarnate, as Jesus Christ, would be present with them as Holy Spirit. This might be difficult for some people to understand, but this is where faith comes enters the scene. Wherever you and others are now, be assured of the presence of the Spirit of the living God.

The Lord IS here. His Spirit IS with and in us.

Take a time to reflect.

Hymn Singing the Faith 395

Spirit of the living God
fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.

Break me, melt me,
mould me, fill me.

Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.

Daniel Iverson (1890-1977)

A time of prayer.

Ask God, our heavenly Father, to make the presence of the Holy Spirit real to you now.

Invite him to guide you as you pray.

Remember before God your local church and all its people. Give thanks that its mission continues in your area.

Pray that the Spirit may direct its work and strengthen all its members in the tasks to which they are called. Pray for the wider church that by word and action it may proclaim to the world God's love in Jesus Christ. Pray for peace, for a just and sustainable use of its resources and for the greater

recognition of our responsibility to care for all creation.

Give thanks for those who work to combat disease, for scientists, doctors, nurses, and all who care for the sick, the aged and for the vulnerable. ask God to bless and strengthen them.

Remember before God people you know who are particularly in need of your prayers today: family members, friends, neighbours, fellow church members, people you meet.

Think of those who are ill, or anxious because they are waiting for results of tests, or are grieving through the loss of a loved one.

Pray that the presence and power of the Spirit will surround them and sustain them.

Maybe someone you have prayed for would love to receive a phone call from you.

As God blesses you, so may you be a blessing to others. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn Singing the Faith 383

Oly Spirit, gift bestower,
breathe into our hearts today.
Flowing water, dove that hovers,
Holy Spirit, guide our way.
Love inspirer, joy releaser,
Spirit, take our fears away.
Reconciler, peace restorer,
move among us while we pray.

Holy Spirit, Christ proclaimer,
wisdom bringer, light our way.
Fire that dances, wind that whispers,
Holy Spirit, come today.
Ease disturber, comfort bearer,
move among us while we pray.
Truth revealer, faith confirmer,
rest within our hearts today.
From Church Hymnary, 4th edition 2005.

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