

Traditional Home service Sunday 23rd May

OPENING PRAYER

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

Let us return to the Lord our God and say to him:

**My God, for love of you
I desire to hate and forsake all sins
by which I have ever displeased you;
and I resolve by the help of your grace
to commit them no more;
and to avoid all opportunities of sin.
Help me to do this,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

PRAISE

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ. Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs:

Let us sing to God with thankful hearts.
Open our lips, Lord:
and we shall praise your name.

HYMN 1 (*Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire*)

READINGS - Acts 2.1-21
Romans 8.22-27
John 15.26-27;16.4b-15

TALK

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Spend some time praying for our nation, our community and our families.

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.

HYMN 2 (*Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh on Me*)

CONCLUSION

May Christ's holy, healing, enabling Spirit be with you and guide you on your way at every change and turn; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

HYMNS TO USE

1 Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

2 Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our mortal sight.

3 Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but one;
that through the ages all along
this may be our endless song:

4 Praise to thine eternal merit,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God"
Daniel Iverson
The UM Hymnal, No. 393

Sermon Notes - Adrian Morton
Pentecost Sunday Romans 8:18-27

Well, we are of course remembering Pentecost Sunday this morning.

When we remember past events we aren't just being nostalgic.

We remember with a purpose.
We want the event we are remembering impact how we live today.

And that is certainly true about Pentecost.

Because Christians are meant to be Spirit people.

People who have received God's Spirit within them.
And people who are living by the Spirit.

I've quoted Bill Johnson before who says:

"The Holy Spirit is within us for our sake, but comes upon us (in power) for the sake of others."

So the Holy Spirit isn't an optional add on to Christianity.

You and I were designed to host the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Now we haven't had the Pentecost reading read out this morning because I want to focus on the Romans reading.

But if you are not familiar with Acts 2 and the events of the first Pentecost.

It's worth a read.
It describes the extraordinary events when the Spirit was poured out.

Weird and wonderful events.
And the Holy Spirit does bring things that can seem weird.

It doesn't mean though its a licence to act weird.
Unless you're a weird person of course, then whatever you do will have a tinge of weirdness to it...

But equally we shouldn't reject some of the manifestations that come when the Spirit falls upon someone.

<Conference at Oxford...

....

I'd rather see someone healed, after they have behaved strangely, than not have someone open their heart to the Spirit of God...>

So, we shouldn't reject some of the manifestations that come when the Spirit falls upon someone.

But this morning I want to talk briefly about the Holy Spirit being our Helper.

One of the Greek words in reference to the Holy Spirit is 'Parakletos' which means one who is called to one's side, especially to help.

Now what we mustn't do is think that being a 'Helper' is in any way a position of inferiority.

Down the ages the church, I believe, has misinterpreted that word, beginning from Genesis 1. Where Eve is described as Adam's Helper.

And many have been taught that therefore women are inferior to men because they are a helper.

But actually, throughout the OT God is described as a helper.

And I may not know too much, but I am fairly confident in thinking God is not inferior to you or I.

So the Holy Spirit is our Helper.
But He is not our servant and He is in no way inferior of course.

Now it seems to me that as Spirit people we live in a state of 'not yet' and 'already'.

What I mean by that is this:

Jesus has died and He has been resurrected.
And so we live in the blessings of His resurrection.

So we live, for example, as adopted sons and daughters.
Whereby we can experience His presence.

But, and it says this in our Romans 8 reading, we also 'wait eagerly for our adoption as sons'

So we are already adopted but not yet received our full adoption...

We have already been redeemed
Jesus has paid a ransom for us...

But we also wait the full redemption of our bodies...

We already have a future Hope that is secure. It has already been established.

Yet we have to wait patiently because we do not yet have it.

So as Spirit people we live in this 'state of 'not yet' and 'already'.

And this plays out in many ways of our life... So we know our loved one may be going to heaven, but we still have to live with the uncertainty, the pain, the loss in the present.

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, but in the middle of suffering, difficulties, frustrations, it doesn't feel like that.

When we've lost our job, when our business has failed...

We pray for healing because by His stripes we are healed... Yet we don't see all people we pray for healed...

The kingdom has come, but it hasn't come in its fullness. We get glimpses.

We know in part, but we will know fully.

So as Spirit people, often our experience is to live with an uncertain present but also with a certain future.

And in this place of waiting the HS comes along side and helps us.

He reminds us... that we are His adopted Sons and daughters. And we belong to Him. He reminds us there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ. He reminds us that our future is secure. He reminds us that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him. He reminds us that no matter how many **promises** God has made, they are "**Yes**" in Christ.

So He comes along side us and brings comfort and encouragement to us...

v26...

"the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express."

Scholars are not sure what the latter really means.. the 'groans that words cannot express' bit

But this passage has often been interpreted something like this:

'I don't know how to pray for someone but God will help me...'

Well firstly, Paul, who wrote Romans, would have expected the Roman Christians to know how to pray.

Jesus has taught us how to pray.

But there will be occasions when we don't know what to pray for.

But this isn't then saying that the Spirit will then intercede for that person.

It says the Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for **us**.

Our weakness is not in the sense of not knowing what to pray for, but in the sense of suffering,

of patient endurance as we wait for our redemption...

When we aren't seeing our plans coming to fruition.

As we are living with our earthly bodies wearing out.

As we wait for God's promises on our life to come to a reality.

As we experience living with an uncertain present but also with a certain future.

The Holy Spirit will intercede for us. For you and I.

And He is the most perfect intercessor...

Because the Father searches and knows our hearts, and He knows the mind of the Spirit.

So on this Pentecost Sunday, know that the Holy Spirit comes along side you, and intercedes for you.

Amen!