

Traditional Home service

Sunday 5th June

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

*You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:
Lord, have mercy.*

*You bring pardon and peace to the
broken in heart:
Christ, have mercy.*

*You make one by your Spirit the torn and
divided:
Lord, have mercy.*

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 8.14-17
John 14.8-27

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 (Seek ye first)

CONCLUSION

The Lord bless you and watch over you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, 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.

1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And his righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto
you,
Allelu, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, allelu, alleluia.

2 Ask, and it shall be given unto you,
Seek, and ye shall find.
Knock, and the door shall be opened
unto you,
Allelu, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, allelu, alleluia.

3 You shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of the
Lord,
Allelu, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, allelu, alleluia.

Sermon - Peter Smethurst
Pentecost 2022

Happy birthday Church!

The first Pentecost after Jesus death and resurrection was the birth of the Church. Before His ascension Jesus told His disciples: **“do not leave Jerusalem but 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... You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.”**

And, as always, what Jesus said came about and when the day of Pentecost came 120 obedient believers were all together in Jerusalem when suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and fill the whole house where they were sitting and they all saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them and all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them (Acts 2: 1 – 4) and so the church was born when the gift from above that Jesus had promised to those who believed in him arrived.

Today's reading from John 14 is part of Jesus' teaching to the disciples at the Last Supper starting from when Philip asked Jesus to show them the Father. The Scripture account of what Jesus said simply gives us the essentials that we need to know. It doesn't tell us whether Jesus rolled his eyes or sounded exasperated when He said: **“Don't you know me Philip, even after I've been with among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “show us the Father”?”**

Jesus always wants to expand the faith of His disciples, both then and now, so he told them **“believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;”** It is vitally important that we believe what Jesus teaches and that we put it into practice.

Not only was the Father living in Jesus but it was the Father speaking and working through Jesus when he was healing the sick cleansing the lepers restoring the sight to the

blind and raising the dead. In the book of Acts this aspect of Jesus' ministry was described as **“He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, because God was with Him.”** (Acts 10:38). Long before the Last Supper Jesus had stated **“I and the Father are one”** (John 10:30) but like much of Jesus' teaching it appears that the disciples didn't fully understand this and yet Jesus being the visible image of the invisible God is an essential concept to grasp for all of us who follow Him but on the night before His crucifixion Philip for one had not understood what he had heard and seen. (Colossians 1:15)

When we read about Jesus, His Father and the Holy Spirit we need to bear in mind that there is only the one God who created Heaven and earth.

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are the three aspects of the one God that scripture reveals to mankind. When Jesus says that He and the Father are one or that He is in the Father and the Father is in Him He is expressing a fundamental truth. The Father is God, the Holy Spirit is God and Jesus is God BUT there is only one God. Jesus said that he and the Father are one but he could also said that He and the Holy Spirit were one. The Trinity is indivisible.

The teaching in John 14 is one of those Scriptures that we need to read, reread, and meditate upon if we are to get anything like its full meaning. As always, we struggle to wrap our finite minds around infinite concepts. We are created beings living in a fallen world that clamors for our attention every waking moment and we fall short of the glory of God.

Fortunately, God remembers our limitations and this is why Jesus asked the Father to give His disciples another advocate to help them and be with them forever.

In this passage Jesus told his disciples in advance that the Spirit would teach them all things and remind them of everything that Jesus had said to them.

So when Jesus tells them what will happen on Pentecost in verse 20 it is a simple statement of fact: **On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are**

in me, and I am in you.

And to get that realisation we need to be filled with **“the Spirit of truth”** – and remember that Jesus declared that He was the truth.

He also said that the world cannot accept the Holy Spirit, because it neither sees Him or knows Him but He went on to tell the disciples that they did in fact know Him.

Jesus said: **“He lives with you and will be in you”**. That second statement that the Spirit of truth would be in them prophesied what would happen at Pentecost BUT His first statement **“He lives with you”** was present tense.

Jesus lived with them and He was full of the Holy Spirit and in that sense the Holy Spirit had been living with them for the last three years. Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit are the one God who had been with the disciples for three years - which explains Jesus' response to Philip's request to show them the Father.

In addition to saying that the Spirit of truth would come to live in them Jesus also went on to say: **I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.**

Elsewhere Jesus also promised His disciples that He would never leave them or forsake them.

When we have faith in the finished work of Jesus on the cross we are born-again and Jesus, the Holy Spirit and God the Father come to live in us – all the aspects of God in our spirits.

Jesus is the Word of God made flesh. He is the only visible representation of God that we will ever have in this world and we are called to love and obey Him.

According to Jesus loving Him and doing what He says is synonymous.

Verse 15: **"If you love me, keep my commands.**

V 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."**

V23 & 24: **"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. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching.

After Pentecost it became the responsibility of the apostles to pass on Jesus' teaching and about twenty-five years after the Holy Spirit was poured out on the original 120 believers and the Church was born the Holy Spirit inspired the apostle Paul to write his letters setting out what it means to be a Christian.

In our passage for today from Romans chapter 8 we have this fundamental teaching on our relationship with God: **the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."**

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Now if we are children, then we are heirs-- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

When we received the spirit of God by faith we were adopted as children of God. The Holy Spirit convinces us that this is true.

Jesus taught that in addition to all three aspects of God being in us we would also be in Him which is why St Paul makes so many references in his writings to us being "in Christ Jesus".

As we stand on this side of Pentecost "in Christ Jesus" we have so many blessings. We are adopted as children of the God who loves us more than we can ever imagine. There is no condemnation for us for anything that we have been or done and we can fearlessly call our Creator "Daddy God" - After all we are His heirs together with our Saviour and brother Jesus who calls us to sit with Him at the right hand of the Father and to share in His glory.

Our role is simply to be filled with the Spirit of truth, love God, in whatever aspect we choose, and obey His teachings. Amen.