

TOGETHER WORSHIP

Sunday 7th June 2020

Welcome and Introduction

Opening Scripture

Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes; your name is like perfume poured out.
Song of Songs 1 v3

Hymn/Song May the fragrance of Jesus fill this place. (*Men*)
Lovely fragrance of Jesus, (*Women*)
Rising from the sacrifice (*All*)
Of lives laid down in adoration.

May the glory of Jesus fill His church. (*Men*)
May the glory of Jesus fill His church. (*Women*)
May the glory of Jesus fill His church. (*Men*)
Radiant glory of Jesus, (*Women*)
Shining from our faces (*All*)
As we gaze in adoration.

May the beauty of Jesus fill my life. (*Men*)
May the beauty of Jesus fill my life. (*Women*)
May the beauty of Jesus fill my life. (*Men*)
Perfect beauty of Jesus, (*Women*)
Fill my thoughts, my words, my deeds, (*All*)
My all I give in adoration.

Graham Kendrick
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All We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day:
All **so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you.**

Hymn/Song Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age to same;
His holy Name--the Lord, the Mighty One

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by

Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high
Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and for evermore!

Confession

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

All Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you. We are not worthy to be called your children. We turn to you again. Have mercy on us. bring us back yourself as those who once were dead but now have life through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the God of live bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for the Day

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Hymn/Song

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

When we've been there* ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

Reading from God's Word

Psalm 8. For the director of music. According to *gittith*.^[b] A psalm of David.

¹ Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory in the heavens.

² Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?^[c]

⁵ You have made them^[d] a little lower than the angels and crowned them^[f] with glory and honour.

⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their^[g] feet:

⁷ all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,

⁸ the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

⁹ Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Matthew 28:16-20 The Great Commission

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

All We believe in god the father, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.

We believe in God the Son who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with his power.

We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn/Song

Oh, God will make a way
Where there seems to be no way
He works in ways we cannot see
He will make a way for me
He will be my guide
Hold me closely to His side

With love and strength for each new day
He will make a way; He will make a way (repeat)
By a roadway in the wilderness, He'll lead me
And rivers in the desert will I see
Heaven and Earth will fade but His word will still remain
And He will do something new today

Oh, God will make a way
Where there seems to be no way
He works in ways we cannot see
He will make a way for me
He will be my guide
Hold me closely to His side
With love and strength for each new day
He will make a way; He will make a way.

Songwriters: Don Moen
God Will Make a Way lyrics © Capitol Christian Music Group

Prayers

Lord, in your mercy . . .
All Hear our prayer.

....ending with:

Merciful Father
All Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

**All 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 forever. Amen**

The Peace

God has called us to live in peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All And also with you.

Hymn/Song

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin

my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my words to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will send the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

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Our gifts are gathered and presented

Notices

The Blessing

May the love of the Lord Jesus draw us to himself. the power of the Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us in his service, and the joy of the Lord Jesus fill our hearts.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and forever. **Amen**

Let us go in peace, to love
and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen

Sermon preached by Revd David on Pentecost Sunday, 31 May 2020

In the Together News this week, I mention that I was in the churchyard at Christ Church this week, livestreaming morning prayer when the silence was interrupted by a low growling sound - a kind of rumbling that slowly got louder and louder. And there opposite the lichgate, a large green lorry pulls up with the driver obviously lost. He's on the phone I guess to clarify the address he is delivering too. And then I noticed that the name of the company written large on the side of the lorry is 'KEEN & ABLE'.

Now, I don't know what the feeling was in that Upper Room there in Jerusalem where the Disciples and friends of Jesus were waiting for the fulfilment of the promise Jesus had made when he commands them there in Acts 1 v4

"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with^[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with^[b] the Holy Spirit."

While he was with them, Jesus painted a picture of what calls them to do as his witnesses summed up in his Great Commission which they received in the place Jesus told them to go - perhaps a familiar meeting place where Jesus and his disciples had met . . . it was there that they Jesus says . .

"all authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, even to the very end of the age."

I am not sure that as they waited, they had a very clear idea of what was going on. Think about it, their Master had now left, possibly leaving some thinking that he had abandoned them. The atmosphere on the other side of the door was feverish as Jerusalem had been thrown into political and religious turmoil. The Jewish community was clearly divided in its response to the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus with some believing and others denied any claim that Jesus had risen from the dead and that he was the Messiah. And yet, religious life goes on as the city prepares for the arrival of thousands of Jewish pilgrims to celebrate the Jewish Festival of SHAV-UOT 'The Festival of weeks' which marks the all-important wheat harvest in the Land of Israel following a time of famine as well as being the anniversary of the day God gave the 'Law' to Moses (Torah) on Mount Sinai.

And it was on this day that God the Father pours out his Holy Spirit, and initiates a new, very different harvest with the Lord adding to the church, daily by the thousands. Not only was God now about to do something new, he was about to say something new too! It seems to me that prior to 'Day of Pentecost', no-one had received the Spirit in this way and no one had heard God speak in this way either.

And so, as the Holy Spirit fell what I guess was a pretty non-descript room - with the sound of wind and the tongues of fire falling. And it was here when the disciples were to discover just what it was that God was calling and equipping them to do in Jerusalem and to the wider world. And so it is, that with amazing - even shocking boldness, the disciples start to declare the wonders of God in the languages of those who had gathered to remember what God had done and said in the past! Such was the extraordinary, unexperienced and unexpected outburst of supernatural spiritual activity, some even thought that the disciples had had too much to drink!

This week, I described in Together News the work I am convinced that the Holy Spirit would equip us to do here, in our own Jerusalem. When the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the Church, we will be

- Bold in Speaking
- Confident in Living
- Generous in Serving
- Sacrificial in Giving
- Joyful in Worship

It all sounds great doesn't it. But however, we describe what we believe God would have us do AND BE, is there not a sense in which we can doubt, like some of the disciples locked down in that Jerusalem apartment? As we have a feeling, a longing, a desire even a conviction that we too will be

bold in speaking, confident in living, generous in serving, sacrificial in giving, joyful in worship, In truth, we don't fully understand what this means or even believe that any of this is possible. And so, we lose hope, faith dies, and hope is lost.

Friends, If ever there was a time when we need to be asking 'Come Holy Spirit, Come Holy Spirit, Come Holy Spirit' it is today. Why? Because Keen we might be . . . but ABLE in our own strength and resources we are NOT.

May God give us an appetite for what is possible/achievable and the shared conviction that on our own – we will achieve nothing and remind us of what Jesus says, perhaps with an eye towards the Day of Pentecost, 'but with God, all things are possible' (Matthew 19 v26)

I wonder, when did you ask 'Lord Jesus, pour out your Holy Spirit? As I walk and drive throughout the Benefice and sense the possibilities, I do pray – often out loud – 'Lord Jesus, pour out your Holy Spirit.'

And I believe that when this is our repeated prayer, expressing a longing that God would come and help us to do what needs to be done and say what needs to be said, He will not deny us.

So, on your own – if you are not doing so . . . start praying 'Come Holy Spirit'

In your homes, if you are not doing so . . . start praying 'Come Holy Spirit'

Amongst your friends, for your friends . . . start praying 'Come Holy Spirit'

And when God witnesses a passion for his glory and determination to serve others in his name, God gives his word - He will not hold back but will pour out his Spirit upon us, upon his Church and our communities.

May we discover in these confusing and concerning days that God's purpose for us, his Church has not changed. So, may we discover a renewed power and passion as the Holy Spirit moves us from expressing our 'keenness' to experiencing what it is to succeed as those who are able to be

- Bold in Speaking
- Confident in Living
- Generous in Serving
- Sacrificial in Giving
- Joyful in Worship

May God bless his word to our hearts. Amen