

## Worship at Home - Sunday 5th June 2022

*This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use at home. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people across the Methodist Connexion are sharing this act of worship with you.*

### Opening Prayer

Creator God; we come before you today expressing our adoration and praise. We ask you to bless all who are worshipping today, wherever they may be; and ask that our worship brings honour and glory to Your name. **Amen.**

### StF 385: Holy Spirit, we welcome you

<https://youtu.be/eKlquTpWpz0>

**Holy Spirit, we welcome you,  
Holy Spirit, we welcome you!  
Move among us with holy fire  
as we lay aside all earthly desire,  
hands reach out and our hearts aspire.  
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,  
Holy Spirit, we welcome you!**

**Holy Spirit, we welcome you,  
Holy Spirit, we welcome you!  
Let the breeze of your presence blow  
that your children here might truly know  
how to move in the Spirit's flow.  
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,  
Holy Spirit, we welcome you!**

**Holy Spirit, we welcome you,  
Holy Spirit, we welcome you!  
Please accomplish in us today  
some new work of loving grace, we pray --  
unreservedly -- have your way.  
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,  
Holy Spirit, we welcome you!**

*Christopher Alan Bowater (b. 1947)*

### Let us pray together

Almighty God, we praise Your holy name and give thanks for this opportunity to be part of worship today.

We remember those living in circumstances where worship is difficult and pray that they too will be blessed today.

There are times when we also may find it difficult to worship and feel that we have let you down; but we can rejoice in the assurance that you are a loving and forgiving God and are with us in all circumstances.

We are all part of God's family world-wide and pray that we shall know the strength, encouragement and peace that this brings; whatever our circumstances are.

Bless your people today; and may our lives be enriched through our fellowship and worship. **Amen**

### New Testament Reading: Acts 2 v 1-21

### Gospel Reading: John 14 v 8-17

### Time to Reflect

Today is Pentecost Sunday; a significant event in the life of the Church; and one that should not be downplayed. Christmas and Easter gain prominence because the secular world has hi-jacked these for

material gain. Pentecost has eluded such secular concern – for now!

For us as Christians, Pentecost is a momentous event. Some say it is the birthday of the Church; others that it was the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Well, God's spirit has always been in the world. In Genesis, the spirit moved over the waters of the earth and God breathed life into Creation (the Hebrew word 'ruach' means spirit and breath). God's spirit gave people special gifts e.g. the gift of prophecy, but also some practical gifts such as Samson's strength. In the New Testament, the spirit of God was operative in the life of Jesus and was essential to the life of the early church as well as each individual Christian. The early church was full of joy, love and praise and no decision was taken without asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Prayer, patience and obedience were 3 key elements in the life of the early Church.

Can we learn from that pattern? How do we make decisions as a Church? What part does prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit play? How patient are we in waiting upon God when we live in a world where instant responses are expected?

On the day of Pentecost, God's spirit gave the early Church a new joy in worship and praise; a new love for one another and the world, a new understanding of God and a desire to share this good news with everyone.

May the blessings of God's spirit be alive and well in the life of God's people and church today, inspiring us to go forth and share God's love and blessing wherever we go and with whoever we meet. Amen.

**Take a time to sit quietly**

## A time of prayer

**Father God,**

We come before you today with much in our hearts and on our minds. We look at the world and see so many needs both on the world-wide stage and also in our own communities and lives. So we pray today that peace may prevail over conflict-conflict between nations, conflict in our communities and conflict in our families. May people find ways of living together in harmony, despite differences they may have.

Much of our world continues to be affected by injustice and poverty. We give thanks for those who are working to alleviate suffering and bring justice to those who are oppressed.

We remember before you those who are sad, lonely and isolated. We especially pray for those who have been forced to flee their homes, losing all that they have. We pray that they may find comfort, friendship and a sense of belonging in a world that can so often feel distant and uncaring.

As our Queen celebrates her Platinum Jubilee, we give thanks for her years of service, dedication and example.

Help us to be humble and faithful servants, following the example of Jesus – the Servant King. He calls us to enthrone Him in our lives but also learn how to serve the needs of others, for it is Christ we are serving.

**Amen**

## The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father .....*

## StF 391: O breath of life, come sweeping through us

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3bsgoPjcg4>

**O breath of life, come sweeping through us,  
revive your church with life and power;  
O breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us,  
and fit your Church to meet this hour.**

**O wind of God, come, bend us, break us,  
till humbly we confess our need;  
then in your tenderness remake us,  
revive, restore; for this we plead.**

**O breath of love, come breathe within us,  
renewing thought and will and heart;  
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,  
revive your Church in every part.**

*Elizabeth Ann Head (Bessie Porter Head) (1850-1936)*

## A prayer of blessing

Bless us O Lord as we seek to serve you in our daily lives. May our words and deeds be worthy of your name. May your peace and blessing be with us all for we ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen**

*Original Materials by John Roughley (local preacher Bede Methodist circuit, Gateshead)*

*We are grateful to all the Ministers and Local Preachers from around the Connexion who have contributed to Worship at Home. This resource is administrated by Ministries: Vocations and Worship in the Connexional Team.*

*For more worship resources see:*

[The Bible \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)

[Singing the Faith Plus \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)