

Church at home

East Leake Methodist Church 2020

Sit comfortably in a quiet place and prepare, start with a brief period of silence, turning your mind and spirit towards God. You may want to have a cross or candle in view as a focus.



Call to worship

Come, Holy Spirit; fill us with your peace.
Come, Holy Spirit; unite us in our worship.
Come, Holy Spirit; raise us by your power.
Come, Holy Spirit, come now.

Hymn StF 21 Born in song

Let us pray:

Dear Lord, we gather in the name of Jesus
and in the power of the Spirit to worship you.
We bring gifts of speaking, of listening, of music,
of prayerfulness, of knowledge, and of wisdom.
May our gifts be united to honour you and may each

of us receive from you that which we need.

Amen.

A prayer of approach

Pour out your Spirit, loving Lord,
that your sons and your daughters may hear your prophetic word.
Pour out your Spirit, loving Lord,
that your sons and your daughters may know how to live according to your
ways.
Pour out your Spirit, loving Lord, that your sons and your daughters may
worship you in Spirit and in Truth. **Amen.**

Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving.

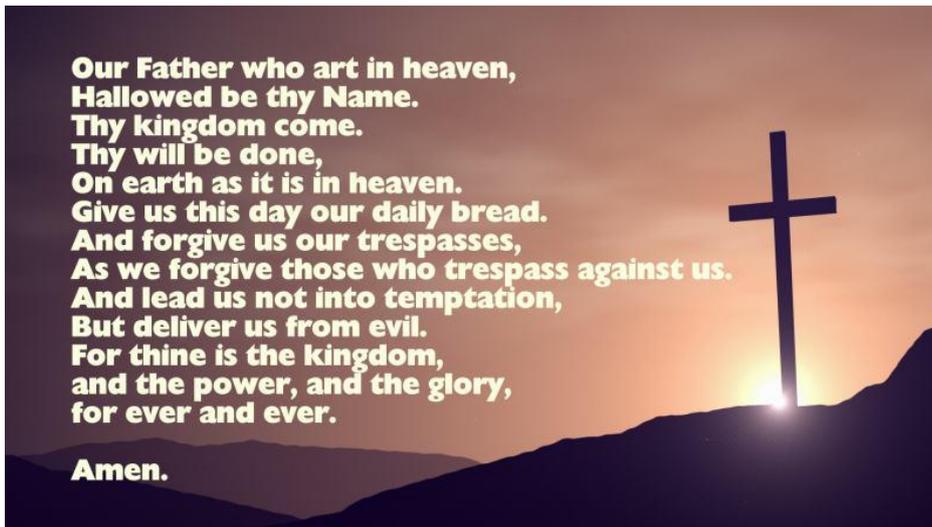
O Lord, your works are so diverse and so plentiful.
The earth is full of such a range of animals;
the vast and rolling oceans teem with creatures immense and tiny.
You provide for all with great generosity.
We will always praise you.
Our prayer will be empowered by your Spirit
and we will always praise you –
Father, Son and Spirit.
Amen.

Prayer of confession.

God, your love is unconditional;
your gifts are offered with measureless generosity;
your peace is all-encompassing.
We are sorry for times
when we have put conditions on our willingness to care;
when we have kept what we have for ourselves and refused to share

with others;
when we have failed to seek peace and have caused discord.
Forgive us; restore us; renew us by your Spirit of life.*Amen.*

Let us join together in the Lord's Prayer



Readings

John 7.37-39

Acts 2 1-21

Address

The coming of the Holy Spirit was described in the Acts reading as wind and fire and earlier in the St. John's Gospel reading as living water- all these natural phenomena have a very powerful, destructive aspects, as we have seen over the last few months, with hurricanes, cyclones, floods and the bush fires but we can also relate to the power that the coming of the Spirit must have felt like to those who experienced this event. Everyone was able to understand in their own language, making it personal and also understandable. It was the coming of the Spirit to everyone irrespective of age, gender, race, no one was left out. The message was for everyone, it was then and it is today as our Methodist teaching reminds us

“All need to be saved.

All may be saved.

All may know themselves saved.

All may be saved to the uttermost.”

On the Methodist website we are reminded of the Methodist way of life:

“A Methodist Way of Life is a way of living. It is how we try to live our lives in response to God’s love, made known to us in Jesus.

Like the early Christians (**Acts 2.42-47**), we seek to express what it means to follow Jesus in the regular, practical actions of worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism.

In this sense, A Methodist Way of Life is both new and old. It is new, in that Methodists first discussed such a way at the 2018 Conference, although it is based on **Our Calling**, agreed in 2000. That, in turn, was built on what Methodists have always done, since the days of John Wesley, in trying to follow Jesus and live out the Christian faith – just as those first followers in Acts did.

The commitments of A Methodist Way of Life remind us of, and provide a compass for, Christian living.”

There are further details attached to download as a commitment card at the end of this service.

Our next reading is one of several in the Bible that talks about the Gifts of the Spirit, we are all given gifts from the Spirit which we are able to use to encourage others:

Reading

Corinthians 12.3b-13; Gifts of the Spirit

Using the gifts and talents which have been given to us by the Holy Spirit is an important aspect of our Christian faith, we all have our

special gifts, it may be listening, talking ,serving others, prayer, whatever gift we have then we should use them well, in order to help others and ourselves to share our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Things are very different at this time of lockdown, although we are taking tentative steps forward many things have been changed and will change. Lockdown has brought communities closer, its makes us appreciate the gifts which some people have been given, especially the many key workers who have been looking after us and stepping out to serve others. We need to ensure that the lessons learned during this pandemic are acted up. Our online services are reaching beyond our members to others in the community and this is one area which our circuit hopes to continue after we are able to worship again in our churches because it meets the needs of those who are not able to come to church on Sunday. Many will need further support for their well being and training is taking place to help in this area. Those who have lost loved ones are finding it difficult to grieve because of the restrictions and again additional help is going to be needed. We can all play our part, use the gifts given by the Holy Spirit to support those we meet on our journey of life. Here is a possible way into prayer, our way of asking Jesus for the help and support we will need in order to help others and use the gifts given to each one of us by the Holy Spirit We are able to communicate with our Lord through prayer and here is a way which you may find useful in these unusual times

A reflective way into prayer

Sit very still and become aware of your breathing.

As you breathe in, think of God.

As you breathe out, think of the world.

Repeat this at least three times.

As you breathe in now, give thanks for the peace the Spirit brings.

As you breathe out, pray for peace in the world.

Repeat this at least three times.

As you breathe in, receive from God what he has for you.
As you breathe out, ask what you should do.
Repeat this at least three times.

Keep a few moments of quiet and conclude:
Come, Holy Spirit, come now.
Amen.

Hymn StF 395 Spirit of the living God

Prayers of intercession

Let us pray

Holy Spirit of peace,
we pray for homes and nations where there is discord and conflict.
Pour out your breath of peace that people
may listen to each other;
may respect one another;
may honour each other.

Holy Spirit, hear us.
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Holy Spirit of hope,
we pray for those who live in despair;
for those who can see no purpose in their lives;
for those who cannot see a way ahead;
for those who feel completely alone.

Holy Spirit, hear us.
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Holy Spirit of unity,
we pray for your Church,

for its ministry to the faithful;
for its mission to the world.
May the Spirit of Pentecost breathe upon us,
that we may witness to the world
the comfort, meaning and love that you offer.
Heal our differences and make us one in you.

Holy Spirit, hear us.
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

In the name of our Saviour we pray.
Amen.

Hymn StF 238 Lead us heavenly father' Lead us

Blessing

Come, Holy Spirit, fill my home with peace.
Come, Holy Spirit, fill my heart with love.
Come, Holy Spirit, fill my life with your power.
Amen.

May the power of the Spirit challenge you.
May the peace of the Spirit comfort you.
May the presence of the Spirit enable you to live in love and service in
the name of Christ.

Amen.

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The Methodist way of life commitment card

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/16918/mwol-commitment-card-220420.pdf>

Ideas for the week,

Water, wind and fire Pentecost is a day (like Christmas and Easter) for the church to shout out. Using whatever resources you have, make a display or a poster for your window that proclaims the pouring out of the Holy Spirit in water, wind or fire - or any combination of them. During 'lockdown', there have been many examples of ways to make birthdays special - make the church's birthday special today!

God's abundance

Draw or write of God's abundance

Jesus spoke about the Spirit coming as being like 'rivers of living water', emphasising God's generosity. Using A5 paper, and crayons or coloured pens. You are invited to draw images of, or write in bubble writing words to express, whatever they consider to be signs of God's abundance or generosity.

Suggestions, a waterfall, a spring, a field of wheat, a fruit-laden tree.