



Church at Home for Abridge

17th May 2020

John 14: 15-21

Further resources for worship and reflection



Holy Spirit,
enclose me
so I may be . . .
guided by Thee.

Be my ears,
be my eyes;
with Your wisdom
make me wise.

Holy Spirit
envelop me
so more like You
I may be.

Feed my soul,
with truthfulness
increase in me
true faithfulness.

Holy Spirit,
descend upon me
give me faith . . .
for what I can't see!

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## Reflections on the Gospel passage

As we read John's Gospel, and like the disciples seek to understand and follow Jesus, it is always clear that His relationship with His Father was uniquely intimate, loving and trusting. In fact they are so close that when we see Jesus, we see the father; as we get to know Jesus, we discover more of His Father.

So when the risen Jesus tells His disciples that the time is coming when He will leave them, it must have seemed to them that they would be at risk of losing not just their friend, Saviour and Lord, but also their closeness, their way, to their Heavenly Father.

Jesus reassures them that the Holy Spirit (the Counsellor) will help them realise that they will in fact be gaining more than they could ever lose. The Spirit will reveal that they are actually "in" Christ, who is one with the Father, and so they are "in" the Father too. The Spirit will teach all this in different ways, reminding them of all that Jesus has taught, and grafting them into the loving relationship between Father and Son. This is true for us as followers of Jesus too.

In this passage we find Father, Son and Holy Spirit working together in perfect harmony. We cannot see the Spirit, but where there is life, peace, truth, understanding, love, and togetherness, that is always because He is present. A bird flies in the air which can never be seen. And as followers of Jesus, the Spirit is the unseen inspirer (or breath) of life. It is all too easy to take God's Spirit for granted, but without His presence there would be no created world, no knowledge of salvation, no resurrection, and no eternal life in Father and Son.

It is in Him that we live, move and have our being, and His chief delight is never in attracting attention to Himself, but rather in drawing us closer into the relationship between Jesus and His Father.

As we move in the Christian seasons from Easter to Ascension the Spirit has been at work all through, And it will not be long before we celebrate Pentecost, when through the wind and fire of the Spirit the Church was born and the Gospel began to spread into every land until eventually it reached Abridge!

