



Church at Home 10
For Abridge
Sunday 17th May 2020
Sixth after Easter and last before Ascension



“I will ask the Father, and He will send another Counsellor to be with you forever: the Spirit of truth”

John 14:16

This is the tenth occasion that many of us have worshipped together in this way, and it has been so good to hear how much these times in our own homes have been appreciated. And a joy to discover that through them, though we are physically separated, we have been helped to feel close to others. Once again we suggest that if you know of someone in the church family who is alone for this act of worship, you might like to give them a call and arrange to share this time with them.

This is the last Sunday of the Easter season. On Thursday it will be time to celebrate the Ascension of Jesus Christ. Today we continue to take in the words He spoke to his disciples at the Last Supper. Last Sunday we recalled that He prepared them for the fact that He would soon be leaving them. Responding to their concern and questions he explained how He was The Way, the Truth and the Life. Today we focus on how He went on to reassure them that when the time came for Him to leave them, they did not need to be afraid: His Father would send another Counsellor or Friend, the Holy Spirit.

1. At the start our service, listen to or sing along with: [Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.](#)

These are the words: Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; break me, melt me, mould me, fill me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

2. As we reflect on the past week since we were last together, let us say:

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us. (Pause and Reflect)**

For the times we have not loved You and been obedient to Your will...

Good Lord, forgive us.

For the times when we have been self-centred...

Good Lord, forgive us.

For the times we have not loved others as ourselves....

Good Lord, forgive us.

And for Your promise that You will never leave us or forsake us, and that through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus you dear Son, our Saviour You welcome and forgive, and renew us

Good Lord, we thank you.

3. A special prayer for today:

Lord Jesus,

You have promised that you will not leave us as orphans

But send your Spirit to be with us and live in us.

Help us to trust Your word so that we might

Know your peace. And with Your stillness in our hearts,

May we reflect Your love to others,

For Your name's sake, **Amen**



4. The Bible readings today are:

Psalm 66: 8-20; John 14: 15-21; Acts 17: 22-31; I Peter 3: 13-22;

Perhaps you can read Psalm 66: 8-20 and use these verses as a prayer.

If you then read the Gospel passage from John 14, you will find that the two other New Testament readings bring out particular themes. If you are able, it might be helpful to jot down anything that speaks to you from them. For example, Paul doesn't mention the Holy Spirit during his speech at Athens, but speaks of the One "in whom we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17: 27). Peter writes of how Christ was "made alive by the Spirit" (I Peter 3: 19).

5. To help you explore the story further, there is a **reflection sheet** and also some **all-age activities** that you might like to use, if you have access to the Internet. You can find these resources on the websites of the two churches and here are the links:

www.lambournechurch.com www.abridgeevangelicalchurch.org

6. Prayers.

For our prayers, and in the light of the promise of Jesus that His Father would send the Holy Spirit to guide and comfort us, let us remember:

- The families of those who mourn, including the Sweetings;
- Those preparing to go back to work, and those of all ages with uncertain futures;
- Key workers who continue to put themselves at risk to save lives;
- Teachers and pupils; and parents who are home-schooling;
- Those known to us overseas who are face Covid 19 on top of everything else, with fewer resources;
- Our sisters and brothers in Christ worldwide as they seek to worship and serve God in different ways at this time.
- Add any particular people and situations that the Lord brings to your mind as you have been praying. End with our family prayer, **The Lord's Prayer**.

Suggested Hymns in different traditions: [Our blest Redeemer 'ere He breathed](#); [Breathe on me breath of God](#); [God's Spirit is in my heart](#); [Wind, wind, blow on me](#).

[A Sermon on "Wind Wind blow on me"](#) This is a 20 minute Sermon, it is worth listening to.

End your time of church-at-home by saying out loud the words of **The Grace**, reaching out your hands to include in your imagination all those you know and love, who live here in the village.



Keith and Ruth's Church at home with Sunday lunch cooking in the oven.

Church Leaders Contact details:

Nick - 01992 814 426.

Roger - 01992 815 838.

Keith - 020 8504 9186

And if you haven't tried it, you might like to use the Church of England free phone line with hymns, short reflections and prayers: 0800 804 8044