



**Church at Home 14
for Abridge
Sunday 14th June 2020**



*The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.
Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore
to send out workers into his harvest field. (Matthew 9: 37)*

It's been an exciting two weeks for Christians around the world as we have been celebrating and exploring first Pentecost, and then something of the riches and mystery of the Trinity. The theme for this morning's act of worship arises naturally along the journey we have been taking. At Pentecost, what we now know as "The Church", was born. It is a community drawn together and inspired by God's promises; the Lordship of Jesus; and the moving of the Holy Spirit. Last Sunday we rejoiced that we have been enfolded into the very heart of the threefold relationship between Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And it is this that leads, guides and inspires us to follow the way of Jesus, and to spread the good news that it has been our privilege to know first-hand, whatever the challenges or the costs.

As we begin our worship, let's remember those who are gathering with us in their own homes at the very same time and pray for at least one of them by name. We start with a hymn that draws together Pentecost, Trinity and the prayer that God will revive us and equip the Church to spread the light across the waiting harvest fields.

[*O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us. \(Modern\)*](#) [*O Breath of Life. \(Traditional\)*](#)

Now let's be still, and pause to pray, reflecting on the past week since we were last together, as we say:

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

- **For the times we have not loved You and been obedient to Your will... Father, forgive us.**
- **For the times when we have not loved others as ourselves... Jesus, forgive us.**
- **For the times we have not shared the good news of Jesus by action or word... Spirit, forgive us.**

And a special prayer for today:

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Today's Bible readings are:

**Genesis 18: 1-15, (21: 1-7); Exodus 19: 2-8a; Psalm 116: 1-2; 12-19 and Psalm 100,
Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9: 35-10:8 (9-23)**

As we read them, let's allow God's Spirit to illuminate each, and to show us how they relate to each other.

- **Genesis 18: 1-15.** Here God appears to Abraham and Sarah in the way that prompted one of the ancient paintings that we used in our service last week: the three guests representing God, and to whom Abraham showed hospitality. In Genesis 21: 1-7 God's promise that Sarah would bear a son is fulfilled.
- **Exodus 19: 2-8** God reveals himself to Moses and makes a covenant promise.
- **Psalm 116: 1-2** is a reminder that God has heard our own prayers, and Psalm 100 is a song of praise.
- **Romans 5: 1-8** there is one of the great testimonies in the Bible about God's love for us, in Christ.

- **Matthew 9: 35-10: 8** is the account of Jesus sending out His disciples to share the good news of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Here are some hymns or songs, traditional and modern, that relate to one of more of these readings, so choose what connects with what God has been showing you through His Word:

[Amazing grace; And can it be, that I should gain? In Christ alone; Here I am, Lord; God's Spirit is in my heart.](#)

The whole point of the church of Jesus Christ is that its members follow Jesus by sharing the good news of God's love with others. Jesus told us to pray ceaselessly that God's Kingdom might come to earth, and that His will might be done. But this is not simply a matter of praying: we are also, like Abraham and Sarah, Moses and the Israelites, to be partners in the process. This can be a rather scary thought, but Pentecost reminds us that it is all about allowing God to work in us and through us. He knows best about harvest and harvesting: we are to stay close to the example of Jesus and to model ourselves on him day by day, season by season. And when the task seems overwhelming, then God's Spirit will speak through us.

I wonder which of these stories you liked the best?

I wonder who you identified with in the stories?

I wonder which part was the most challenging?

I wonder what tasks are most important for myself or the Church in today's world?

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

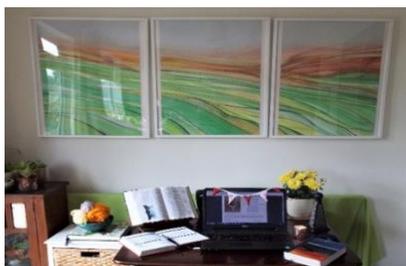
www.abridgeevangelicalchurch.org

With the call of Jesus to ask the Lord of the harvest to send out more workers into his harvest field let us pray.

- We thank you Lord, for all that we have freely received: please move us freely to give;
- Help us to know who you would like us to be alongside in the name of Jesus...
- And help us to trust that You are sending others to help where we cannot go;
- We thank you for all who continue to put themselves at risk to save lives during the pandemic;
- We pray our sisters and brothers in Christ worldwide who suffer as they serve You at this time;
- Please send more workers into your harvest field;
- And may there be a rich harvest in your way and your time.

Add any particular people and situations that the Lord brings to your mind as you have been praying. We bring all our prayers together with the family prayer, **The Lord's Prayer**.

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.



This is a reminder of last week's Church at Home. Those who took part will be able to see the traces of Trinity Sunday with three balls of wool, a triptych, triangular bunting, and a pyramidal cheese-grater!

Please pray for: wise decisions about reopening churches and the Lambourne School assemblies taking place on Zoom on Mondays at 10.00

Church Leaders Contact details: - **Nick** - 01992 814 426. **Roger** - 01992 815 838. **Keith** - 020 8504 9186