

Worshipping God Together

Call to worship

Minister: May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works—
 he who looks at the earth, and it trembles,
who touches the mountains, and they smoke.

All: I will sing to the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

With Jesus in the boat we can smile at the storm

Opening prayer and the Lord's Prayer

“Be still, and aware of God’s presence, Within and all around us.” Let us pray:
God of all love and power, send us your Holy Spirit to help us as we live our lives.
Make us truly your sons and daughters, loving you above all else. Make us truly
brothers and sisters to all who seek to serve you throughout the world. Give us
understanding and courage to share your love and the message of our salvation
with our families, friends, neighbours and colleagues.

**Help us to keep the fire of our faith burning
blowing the flames until we dance,
with the certainty of your presence within us.**

We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Children's Address

Have you ever seen the wind? Have you seen the effect of the wind – where?
Leaves

Let me demonstrate it to you? I borrowed Nanda's hairdryer. If i switch this on, what happens? Heat and wind. can you see the wind? No can you feel it? Yes. Can you see the effect of the wind? Yes paper.

You can only feel and see the effect caused by the wind. That is exactly how God Spirit is working, we “cannae” see it but you can see the effect of His Spirit in the lives of people who follow Jesus . You and I have received this Spirit and every moment of everyday God is with us – although just like the wind we “cannae” see Him but we know He is with us – helping us when we struggle, giving us the courage to tell other people about God and reminding us to be good when we want to do and say bad things!

Will you remember this?

MP 614 Spirit Divine

Reflecting on God’s Word

Reading: John 14:15-21 (NT page 1082)

Reader: Alex Brown

Background

The background for calling the Spirit *parakletos* “Counselor” or “Helper” is debated, but it is probably a courtroom image: one sense of the term is “advocate,” “defending attorney,” “intercessor. Here the Spirit is “another” advocate like Jesus. He would succeed Jesus when He ascends to heaven. Judaism was also familiar with the idea of a “successor” who carries on a predecessor’s work.

The Spirit of God is also called the Spirit of truth. He will guide God’s people in the way of truth—into a fuller revelation of Jesus, who is the only truth, the way and the life.

Jesus promises that He will not leave them like orphans. He will be present to them though His Spirit. In the OT, “orphans” were powerless and needed a legal defender.

Then Jesus assures them that although He will disappear from the world, those who has faith in Him will still “see” him. They will experience the presence of His Holy Spirit each and every time they obey His commandments. And when they

show their love to Him, by obeying everything he has told them to do, God the Father will love them too.

MP 611

Spirit of holiness

Sermon

The textverses for the sermon verses 16-18: “¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be ^a in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

I think the image of not being orphans anymore is quite a powerful one. We are familiar with “orphans” especially in our world – we can understand what it must be like to be an orphan. To have no-one to fend for you, no-one to look after you – no-one to take care of your basic needs – no one to give you love and support, no-one which you can call your own, no-one to wipe away your tears, no-one to hold your hand when you did something wrong, no-one to hold you in their loving motherly arms, no-one to tell you honestly that you are wrong and have done something wrong! No-one whom you can obey or please.

As you all know our friends in England have adopted three children. When we saw them for the first time over a few days, I could at first not understand the dynamics of what was really going on. They could not attach themselves to anyone. They called each and every person they met that had a smile mommy and daddy. And they did not obey anything anyone said especially not our friends. Our friends had a real struggle to teach them the most basic manners.

Later it dawned upon me why did not obey? They did not obey because they felt and had no love in their hearts. They first had to fall in love with our friends in order to please and obey them. They had to love before they could really trust them. And off course the same had to happen to our friends as well, before they could really be parents. But the children also had to learn to love God in order to understand real love.

A couple of months ago, during the Easter break our friend visited us with her three children. It was remarkable to see the changes that love brought them. At the start of each meal, one of them prayed thanking God for love and family and after each meal, they would say: please excuse me from the table, and after we said yes, they would each take their plate, cup and cutlery to the sink, without my friend saying one word! At one meal, I saw love in action.

And this is exactly what Jesus was saying. When they receive His Holy Spirit they will experience His love in every situation when they obey His command to love. And when they do it, they will no longer be orphans alone in the world. They will have the knowledge of the loving presence of God in their lives.

The metaphor of the orphans is a depiction of how many of us feel at times – especially when life is hard, when we feel as though we have lost our faith, we have lost hope and most certainly do not feel being loved. It happens especially when we are ill and have to fight life threatening diseases.

But it is also sometimes a depiction of Parish ministers in general. I can only speak of myself. I sometimes feel quite isolated and lonely – spending hours in front of the computer preparing, doing admin, running after people who do not want to return my calls, worrying about people who is cross with me because of something I said or did, and spending time praying reflecting and waiting for the Lord to speak. I sometimes do feel like an orphan – alone – almost to scared to say out loud my thoughts!

And it is then in these moments that we need to realize we are not spiritually alone although it may feel at times as if we are. I guess the Lord is telling us in all situations: we are no longer Spiritual orphans. He is through His Holy Spirit with us, helping us along the way, challenging us with new and sometimes conflicting ideas, holding us in love when we are frail and vulnerable, chastising us lovingly and gently when we do wrong, wiping away our tears and holding our hands when the going gets tough.

And we do not have to feel guilty anymore when someone ask us if we have received the Holy Spirit. We can honestly show them that we have by simply doing and showing love. Because when we obey the Lord's command to love, we will have experience the presence of His Holy Spirit around us.

So we can go out today with so much hope knowing the Lord's Spirit is with us – *everywhere we go as long as we go in faith, hope and love, everywhere we show our love ! Amen*

Responding to God's word

Our offerings are given for the ministry and mission of the church while we sing MP 673: "There is a Redeemer".

Prayer of thanksgiving: John Young

MP 689 Thine be the glory

Benediction Receive the blessing of God in peace:

May the God whose Spirit comes in quiet breath, inspire and lead us in the coming week.

May the God whose Spirit blows where it will, be our comforter, healer and loving presence during the coming week.

AND THE BLESSING OF GOD THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT BE WITH ALL OF YOU!

Sung MP 612 & 613 Spirit of the living God

Please remain standing as The Bible is removed.

[a](#) Some early manuscripts *and is*