

## WORSHIP AT HOME, SUNDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2024

**Call to Worship:** Abiding in Jesus' love is the sustaining force that will make possible our witness.

### Hymn – StF 266

- 1 All the room was hushed and still,  
and when the bowl was filled  
he stooped to wash their feet.  
And when it was complete,  
he said, this is what I'm asking you to  
do,  
this is why I'm kneeling here beside you.  
This is what I want my Church to be,  
this is what I want the world to see —  
who it is you follow.  
*Love each other,  
one another.  
Love each other  
in the way that I have loved you.  
Walk together,  
and whatever comes,  
love each other in the way that I have  
loved you.*
- 2 Let the room be hushed and still,  
let us go to where he kneels  
and join him as he serves,  
and learn his ways of love.  
He said, this is what I'm asking you to  
do,  
this is why I'm kneeling here beside you.  
This is what I want my Church to be,  
this is what I want the world to see —  
who it is you follow.

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

### Prayer:

I love you, O God  
my Love  
my Warmth  
my Solace  
my Fulfilment.  
All that I am,  
all that I do,  
finds meaning and purpose in you.

Fill me with the full force  
of your Love  
and its passionate splendour  
so that I might hold  
and heal all those who are  
crying out for love.  
Love through me  
all the unreconciled  
whose homes and hearts  
are broken,  
and let them know  
I am able to love  
because you have first loved me.  
Amen.

Miriam Therese Winter.

**The Lord's Prayer** - Our  
Father.....Amen

**Today's Readings:** John 15:9-17

### Reflection:

How does it feel to know that Jesus calls you  
his friend?

Understanding what it means to abide,  
begins here. "As the Father has loved me, so I  
have loved you; abide in my love". How has  
the Father loved Jesus? Who can ever fathom  
that?

Try reading this passage again. And again.  
This constant re-reading, praying,  
conversation with other Christians, and living  
a life of love and service, can slowly lead to  
understanding more and more of the truth of  
this central mystery. This is love for the sake  
of who each is in themselves. We, too, are  
loved like that, welcomed into this home,  
able to speak and act from within this eternal  
relationship and perspective, welcoming  
together into this love, as Jesus does.  
To be loved by Jesus is to be drawn into that  
involvement in the whole of creation, to be  
continually attentive, and to love for the sake  
of all creation and all people. This love can be  
trusted entirely towards your own good and



flourishing, and the flourishing of all creation.  
Love is “fruit that will last.”

Keep these words in your heart. Recite them  
to your children and talk about them when  
you are at home, and when you are away;  
when you lie down and when you rise.

(Thanks to David F Ford: The Gospel of John)

**Prayer:**

O God of many names,  
Lover of all people;  
We pray for peace  
In our hearts and homes,  
In our nations and our world.

For the hungry and the overfed  
    May we have enough  
For the mourners and the mockers  
    May we laugh together  
For the victims and the oppressors  
    May we share power wisely  
For the peacemakers and the warmongers  
    May clear truth and stern love lead us  
to harmony  
For the silenced and the propagandists  
    May we speak our own words in truth  
For the unemployed and the overworked  
    May our impress on the earth be  
kindly and creative  
For the troubled and the sleek  
    May we live together as wounded  
healers  
For the homeless and the cosseted  
    May our homes be simple, warm, and  
welcoming  
For the vibrant and the dying  
    May we all die to live

May God kindle in us  
The fire of love  
To bring us alive  
And give warmth to the world. Amen.

Anglican church of Aotearoa, New Zealand  
and Polynesia.

**Hymn – StF 503**

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling  
joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.
- 2 Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without  
ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.
- 3 Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

**Blessing:**

To God the Father, who first loved us, and  
made us accepted in the beloved

To God the Son, who loved us, and washed us  
from our sins in his own blood

To God the Holy Spirit, who sheds the love of  
God abroad in our hearts

Be all love and all glory, for all time and for  
eternity. Amen.

Thomas Ken (1637-1711)

**(Rev Dr Helen Hooley, CCL 433779)**

## WORSHIP AT HOME

SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Year B Easter 7

### Call to Worship:

Come to God and be ready to listen.  
Come to God and be willing to hear.  
Bring your hearts and minds.  
Come and find a way to serve today.

### Hymn – CMP 784

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
And publish abroad His wonderful name;  
The name all-victorious Of Jesus extol;  
His kingdom is glorious, and rules over all.

God ruleth on high, Almighty to save;  
And still he is nigh, His presence we have;  
The great congregation His triumph shall sing,  
Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

'Salvation to God who sits on the throne',  
Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son:  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
Fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give him his right -  
All glory and power, all wisdom and might:  
All honour and blessing, with angels above;  
And thanks never-ceasing, and infinite love.

**Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)**

### Prayers:

Loving God, we are aware of your presence here:

*Silence*

Loving God, we remember Jesus, your Holy One,  
who amazed and astonished.

*Silence;*

Lord God, where would we be without your  
Spirit?

It moulds us, teaches us, fills us.

When we hear your Word, we realise what a  
great God we have.

What a privilege it is to follow you.

We want to learn so much more about you,  
to know you more intimately.

As a butterfly becomes a caterpillar,  
so you enable us to become the person you want  
us to be: like you. **Amen.**

**Pause for a few moments** -reflect over your  
week, and give to God the things you feel are not  
of you. Seek peace in this time of quiet.

[Type here]

*We say together* – Our Father, who art in heaven  
.... Amen.

### Today's Readings:

**Acts 1:15-17, 21-26**

**John 17:6 - 19**

This week's Bible readings give an insight into how the apostles went about recruiting a new person into their group. Let us explore how a calling might involve some interaction between discerning the will of God and the common sense of human beings.

### Reflection

Jesus' disciples are in Jerusalem, where Jesus told them to wait – obediently for 'the promise of the Father'. There was now a good number of them, men, and women. But of the twelve named disciples, there remained only eleven – Judas having betrayed Jesus before the crucifixion. Jesus mission in calling the twelve was part of the renewal of Israel. Jacob's sons – 'the twelve Patriarchs' are recalled by Stephen in Acts 7:8, and the connection between the twelve tribes and the twelve apostles is affirmed in John's vision of the New Jerusalem (Revelations 21:12-14). In seeking a new apostle, the criteria was very strict – been there from the beginning, witnessing Jesus' baptism, the healing, the doing good, the crucifixion and the resurrection; and so it was that Matthias, with his distinctive ways was the one chosen to be the 'twelfth man'. Perhaps God is using our distinctive ways to fulfil his purposes in others. My insecurities may be increasing someone's empathy, my talking too much may be teaching them patience – even if unintentionally! All are called, there is a special place for each one of God's children, we just have to listen for God's voice or interpretation to find it. Some are called to specific ministries, some to share gifts in other and more general ways. Joseph and Matthias were willing and open to God's call – are we? Do you have a gift that could fulfil a role in the church or community? Praying is a vital gift, as is teaming, sitting and listening – none are menial things - God acknowledges our gifts when he calls us, but that doesn't mean we won't be challenged. A calling may be affirmed through a process of application or selection. It may involve training. It may lead to a formal recognition or commissioning (or ordination). It may involve something far less visible. Whichever, while we

don't cast lots these days, the recognition of a calling has recognition and backing from the wider community.

It's not always easy to discern the way we should go, either in daily life or in church circles – and, we go it alone at our peril. Most of us will have experienced enthusiastic people who put forward ideas without properly considering whether they are feasible or desirable. Such people may need a kindly mentor to draw them aside and point out some pitfalls and alternatives.

How do we respond if we feel that God might be calling us to something new (in church or in the world)? The sense of calling is not ours alone; it belongs to the church as a whole.

Everyone is called to serve God, the community of believers, and their neighbour. If we are not sure what our calling is, a first step might be to assess our gifts and talents, and to ask what those around us see in us. Gifts of friendship, welcome, hospitality, artistic ability, computer skills (to name just a few) are just as important and necessary as those of a preacher.

In the first place, Matthias and Joseph were willing to be called by God. Then they were prepared to participate in the selection process. Finally, they were obedient to the call of the Church and accepted the roles that were assigned to them. By the power of the Spirit, may we be able to assess our skills and talents and discern God's call. May we have the grace to seek the counsel of others. And may we joyfully accept our calling, whatever that may be. Perhaps God is using our distinctive ways of being disobedient to fulfil his purposes in others. My insecurities may be increasing someone's empathy, my talking too much may be teaching them patience – even if unintentionally! **Amen.**

**Prayers of intercession** - Spend some quiet time reflecting on your role in the church, the community, in your family. Remember, no one thing is a greater gift from God than another. You may feel a calling to step out and change, to set down things, or take up other things – self, church, community.

We thank you, God, for all our experiences. Painful or pleasant, they make us as we are. May we allow them to be used for your glory. We thank you for our ministers, who have

responded to your call to share their gifts and experiences with us. Help us all to draw closer to each other and to you. **Amen.**

### **Hymn 566      Take my life and let it be**

- 1 Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love; take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.
- 3 Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King; take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.
- 4 Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold; take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.
- 5 Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine; take my heart — it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store; take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836–1879)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 566

### **Blessing:**

Lord, help us to know ourselves better and to reflect on your call to us.

Give us grace to use our gifts to honour you and to serve others.

Help us to work together for the good of all.

**Amen.**

**Brought together by Janet Ladds ccl no. 783405**

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## WORSHIP AT HOME

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024 - Pentecost  
South-West Cumbria United Area

### Call to worship: Psalm 104, selected verses

LORD, you have made so many things!  
How wisely you made them all!  
The earth is filled with your creatures.  
All of them depend on you  
to give them food when they need it.  
You give it to them, and they eat it;  
you provide food, and they are satisfied.  
May the glory of the LORD last forever!  
May the LORD be happy with what he has made!  
I will sing to the LORD all my life;  
as long as I live I will sing praises to my God.  
May he be pleased with my song,  
for my gladness comes from him.  
Praise the LORD, my soul! Praise the LORD!

### Hymn – Born in song! (verses 1, 2, 4 & 5) Singing the Faith 21, by Brian Hoare

Born in song!  
God's people have always been singing.  
Born in song! Hearts and voices raised.  
So today we worship together;  
God alone is worthy to be praised.

Praise to God!  
For he is the one who has made us.  
Praise to God! We his image bear.  
Heaven and earth are full of his glory;  
let creation praise him everywhere.

Sing the song!  
God's Spirit is poured out among us.  
Sing the song! He has made us anew.  
Ev'ry member part of the Body;  
given his power, his will to seek and do.

Tell the world!  
All power to Jesus is given.  
Tell the world! He is with us always.  
Spread the word, that all may receive him;  
every tongue confess and sing his praise.

### Prayers:

God of Pentecost, come to us today,  
and fill us with your Holy Spirit.  
Lord God, may we come before you now, humbly,  
respectfully, expectantly: ready to meet you and  
receive your Spirit; ready to go out and share  
what we learn and experience. Teach us to see  
the new things you are doing in us. **Amen**

Powerful God, we hear so many languages around us, we meet people with such very different lives from our own. But your Spirit transcends our languages and our differences. It calls us out to worship you. With the blessing of your Spirit, we can be one with all, going forward in your power, serving you as you deserve. **Amen**



God loves every single one of his children, wherever they are from, wherever they are now. As at Pentecost the Holy Spirit enabled people to hear in their own language, so today we can hear and feel and know your forgiveness, Lord, deep in our hearts and souls. We thank you, Lord God. **Amen**

### The Lord's Prayer - Our Father ..... Amen

#### Today's Readings: John 15 v26-27; 16 v7, 12-15

The Helper will come—the Spirit, who reveals the truth about God and who comes from the Father. I will send him to you from the Father, and he will speak about me. And you, too, will speak about me, because you have been with me from the very beginning. I am telling you the truth: it is better for you that I go away, because if I do not go, the Helper will not come to you. But if I do go away, then I will send him to you.

I have much more to tell you, but now it would be too much for you to bear. When, however, the Spirit comes, who reveals the truth about God, he will lead you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own authority, but he will speak of what he hears and will tell you of things to come. He will give me glory, because he will take what I say and tell it to you. All that my Father has is mine; that is why I said that the Spirit will take what I give him and tell it to you.

#### Acts 2 v1-4 (all texts from the Good News Bible)

When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

**Reflection:** At Pentecost we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples – but God’s Spirit is present throughout the story and history of His great works of love for humankind. Today’s Psalm sings the wonders of God’s creation and provision, and brings to mind the very beginning of the Bible, when all that is present in the void and darkness before creation is the Spirit, the ‘wind from God’ hovering over the waters. Then in today’s gospel reading Jesus is speaking to his disciples, and just before this passage starts he is describing the likelihood that they will be hated and persecuted, just as he was. In other words, they are going to have a tough time of it if they do as he asks and continue his work, sharing his message of good news and salvation for all. They don’t want to lose Jesus, who has been their leader, example and inspiration, but he tells them that what comes in his place will be even better and will bring them to a greater understanding of God’s truth and ways than even Jesus could convey. That’s a pretty astonishing claim. The disciples will receive all that they need, and be led into new truths – when I read that I think of the episode later in Acts when Peter, through his encounter with Cornelius, comes to accept that Gentiles as well as Jews can receive the Spirit and come to faith in Christ. A significant and at the time controversial development. ‘Truth’ is a recurring concept: if there is to be change, it must be for strong, authentic and honest reasons, not for convenience. We still look to God’s Spirit for guidance in uncertainty, and the power to act.

The full set text from Acts continues right through to verse 21, describing the astonishment of Jews from many different countries gathered in Jerusalem for a festival when they heard men from Galilee speaking their many languages, the suspicions of some that the disciples were drunk, and Peter’s message to the crowds declaring that this is in fact God’s Spirit come upon them so they will speak his message. Peter makes it clear that this is for everyone; it may have started with the believers who were all gathered together but just like a strong wind it can be felt by anyone exposed to it, and just like a fire it will spread. I’ve recently done my required annual fire safety refresher at work (ah, the joys of e-learning), which initially covers some basic principles of fire and how it starts and continues: needing fuel, oxygen and heat – and an initial ignition source, some sort of spark that sets the whole thing off,

becoming a force that is hard to control. Most of the time, with fire, that’s not what we want. With God’s Spirit, it’s what Christians dream of – times of revival, documented throughout history, when there have been great waves of people coming to faith. It’s hard to imagine that happening in our secular, often cynical age, but these are the times we live in and that is the challenge we face. How can we be the sparks that light a living fire in others? It may not take as much as we think. Just as someone dropping a cigarette butt on a dry fellside never imagines the blaze it can cause, we never know what effect a few words or a simple action of love, help and support can have.

**Prayers of intercession:**

As we seek to share your word:  
come, Spirit of God, empower us.  
As we try to show your love:  
come, Spirit of God, empower us.  
As we care for those in need:  
come, Spirit of God, empower us.  
As we treasure every gift:  
come, Spirit of God, empower us.  
As we challenge injustice and wrong:  
come, Spirit of God, empower us.  
To all your people, those in authority  
and those who feel they are insignificant:  
Come, Spirit of God, empower us. **Amen**

**Hymn – O breath of life**

**StF 391, by Elizabeth Ann Head**

O breath of life, come sweeping through us,  
revive your Church with life and power;  
O breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us,  
and fit your church to meet this hour.

O wind of God, come, bend us, break us,  
till humbly we confess our need;  
then in your tenderness remake us,  
revive, restore; for this we plead.

O breath of love, come, breathe within us,  
renewing thought and will and heart;  
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,  
revive your Church in every part.

**Blessing:** Loving God,  
send us out in the power of your Spirit,  
to reveal your glory to the world. **Amen**

*Prepared by Karen Edmondson, CCL No. 433779  
Prayers from the ‘Roots’ preaching resource.*

## WORSHIP AT HOME

SUNDAY, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024

### Call to Worship:

I lift up my eyes: where does my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord.

The Lord who made heaven and earth.

Let us come now and worship him. Amen.

### Hymn – To God be the Glory (StF 94)

To God be the glory, great things  
he has done!

So loved he the world that he  
gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life in atonement  
for sin,

and opened the life-gate that all  
may go in:

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

*Let the earth hear his voice!*

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

*Let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father, through Jesus  
the Son;*

*and give him the glory — great things  
he has done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to every believer the promise of  
God!

And every offender who truly  
believes,

that moment from Jesus a  
pardon receives:

Great things he has taught us, great things he has  
done,

and great our rejoicing through  
Jesus the Son;

but purer, and higher, and greater  
will be

our wonder, our rapture, when  
Jesus we see:

*Frances Jane van Alstyne (1820–1915)*

### Prayer:

O Lord, our God, maker of heaven and earth,  
we belong to you. Loving God, we bring to you:  
those things we are struggling with,  
those things we are afraid of,

those things we are looking  
forward to,  
and those people who rely on us.  
We bring our tiredness and our  
energy,  
and we name in our hearts those  
who have been a blessing to us  
this past week.

And we give thanks.

Living God, we are sorry for the times when we  
have pretended that we do not belong to you. We  
are sorry for the times when we have not stood  
up or stood out for the things we should. We are  
sorry for when we have remained in the dark and  
have been too afraid to shine in the light. Forgive  
us, Lord, we pray.

May we each know that if we confess our sins,  
God is faithful and just, He forgives us and he  
helps us to start again. Refresh us Lord. In Jesus'  
name we pray. Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer** Our Father.....Amen

### Today's Bible Readings:

Isaiah 6 v 1-8 and John 3v 1-17

### Reflection:

Do you know what an Axolotl is? It is an  
amphibian that lives in Mexico. There, where the  
water is always warm and the food abundant, this  
amphibian lives a happy life as a tadpole. It is  
born, lives and reproduces new axolotl-tadpoles.  
A scientist did an experiment with these tadpoles.  
She took some of them to Paris. There, in the  
colder water and with different food, they  
suddenly became salamanders! They had grown  
up into what they were meant to be by being in a  
different environment.

In our faith development we can remain like  
tadpoles, in a sheltered environment or we can  
support each other to develop our faith and use  
our gifts from God to further his kingdom. Is  
there some new thing God wants you to do? Is  
God calling you to grow into who he meant you  
to be?

Today is Trinity Sunday - the Sunday of the year  
when we recognise that God is three persons in  
one – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and  
within our gospel passage today all three persons  
can be seen. God was born a man in Jesus so that



Jesus could die for our sins. Jesus rose from the dead to offer salvation to all people through spiritual renewal and rebirth. When Jesus ascended into heaven, his physical presence left the earth but he sent the Holy Spirit so that his spiritual presence would always be among us to help us as we work for him.

It is hard to take action because of our faith but that is what we are called to do. Something we say or do can help another person to come to faith in God. We have been given a message of salvation which with the help of the Holy Spirit can be shared for the good of the kingdom of God.

**Prayer:**

Everlasting God, today we pray for those whose hearts are sore. We pray for those who cannot lift their hands from weariness, or sadness, or both. We ask you to bring them rest and hope and to tend to their hurts.

God of kindness, hear our prayer.

We pray for those longing for a new beginning, who feel heavy at the idea of another day; may they know the reality of your love for them. We pray for those who need your refreshing and ask that you would renew them by your Spirit's power.

God of kindness, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who don't belong, those on the margins of society – the poor, the homeless, the weak, the powerless. Open our hearts, to welcome all.

We pray for asylum seekers and refugees, those who have no place to call home, driven from their communities, lives shattered by war and violence. Open our hearts, to welcome all.

May our church always be a place of welcome, hospitality, love and grace – where all who enter will feel that they belong. Open our hearts, to welcome all.

And Lord we pray for ourselves: As we read your Scriptures, inspire our reading that we may learn of you. As we hear your Word, inspire our hearing that we may be taught righteousness. As we listen to your voice, inspire our souls that we may live always under your guidance. Amen.

**Hymn – Blessed Assurance (StF 548)**

Blessèd assurance, Jesus is mine:

O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood:  
*This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day*

*long.*

*This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day*

*long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love:

Perfect submission, all is at rest,

I in my Saviour am happy and blest –  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love:

*Frances Jane van Alstynne (1820–1915)*

**Blessing:**

May you reach out to others as God reaches out to you. May you welcome others as God welcomes you. And may God bless you in your bad times with courage, and in your good times with joy. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**(Rev'd Hayley Edmondson, CCL No. 315086)**

Some items modified from 'Rootsontheweb'.