

Bulletin for Sunday 5 June 2022

Good morning friends.

I hope you are all able to enjoy the various activities of this Jubilee thanksgiving holiday weekend in some way in our communities, with our friends and neighbours. Please note that there will be no Zoom worship on Sunday evening as some of us will be attending a Jubilee thanksgiving service at that time.

Let's pause as we prepare to worship... and then praise God as we sing:

Hymn: Now thank we all our God (R&S 72)

Prayers: Loving God

As we take time to reflect on our nation and its history
we thank you for this beautiful green and fertile land.

We give thanks for our communities -
for street parties, picnics, parades and concerts,
for celebrations with family, friends and neighbours.

And especially we are thankful for the Queen,
for her patience and wisdom, her faithful service,
and the deep Christian faith underpinning her life.

We ask your blessing on everything we do,
and on everything we give in your service,
today and every day. Amen

followed by The Lord's Prayer

Readings: Acts 2: 1-21 and Romans 12: 2-21

Reflection: This is Pentecost Sunday - sometimes described as the birthday of the Church. Following Jesus' Ascension, the Holy Spirit was poured out on the small community of believers, just as he had promised it would be. Previously fearful and uncertain disciples were transformed. Peter, in particular, went from a well-meaning fisherman with a definite tendency to put his foot in things, to a leader able to preach confidently and eloquently to the Jerusalem crowd. This was the start of a new chapter in the story of God's relationship with us and our world. The presence of Christ with us,

through the Spirit, and the action of the Spirit in our lives and in our world, is the background to our faith.

This weekend we celebrate and give thanks for the life and service of the Queen - for the seventy years that she has been on the throne. As a person of deep faith, the Queen shares with us as a member of the post-Pentecost Church, inspired by the Holy Spirit. She never talks about her political views, but she does speak sometimes of her faith, mentioning how much she relies on it to guide her, and how she draws strength from the Christian gospel. In her 1975 Christmas message she talked of Jesus' 'simple message of love... turning the world upside down'. So, as we give thanks for her life of service, let's also give thanks for her life of faith, for the influence she has when she speaks of it, and for the Holy Spirit living and working in our world, in her, and in us. Amen.

Hymn: There's a spirit in the air (R&S 329)

Prayers: Compassionate God, we pray for our world:
for peace and rebuilding where there is conflict,
for wisdom and integrity for those in authority,
for sharing with those in need
and hope for those in pain and distress.
We hold before you
the Queen and her family,
the family of nations that is the Commonwealth,
and also our own communities and neighbours.
In Jesus 'name we ask all our prayers,
including the unspoken prayers of our hearts. Amen

Hymn: Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided (R&S 603)

Blessing: May we always aim to overcome evil with good;
and may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us and with all those we love,
this week, and always. Amen

There will not be a Zoom service this weekend - back as usual next week.

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