

Prayer by Cameron Wiggins Bellum

from Rev'd Eliza

While we grieve our closed churches,
I wonder if, maybe,
just maybe,
Jesus is happy he's been let out of the constraints
of the physical church building for a little
while,
free to stretch his long limbs of love in the
world.

Since we can't go to him,
I imagine him coming out to us.

I imagine his neck stiff from resting his sacred head
on our stone altars,
his elbows cramped from bending to fit into
the transepts,
his holy feet always pressed against the
doors to the narthex.

I imagine him bending double to step
through our low entrances and out into
crowning wreaths of cherry blossoms.
I imagine him traversing our cities,
wiping away tears with the hem of his robe,
offering bread to those who need it,
keeping vigil,
fingertips blessing blazing foreheads,
with all those who die alone.

We long to return to our churches,
incense sanctifying our plaster and stone.

But Jesus lives and breathes out here among
us,
and every molecule of oxygen is holy air.

Amen

Even if you cannot join the service by telephone or video on Sunday, it would be good to try to say our prayers in some form **at 10.30** that morning, and to be intentionally holding each other up to God, and praying for the wider community of St Thomas.

NEXT SUNDAY 7th June 2020 TRINITY

SERVICES Public worship suspended



READINGS

OT Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-31

NT 2 Corinthians 13.11-13

GOSPEL Matthew 28.16-20

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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 31st May 2020

Pentecost

We had a very successful service last Sunday by Zoom which enabled a joint video and telephone act of worship. So this Sunday, Pentecost, will be the same format, and the same service sheet—last use of this as Eastertide ends on Sunday and we're back to 'green' time. Those using phone-only said it was generally a better connection. The telephone numbers are the same: 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196, bearing in mind that it's worth trying a second one if the first isn't very good. The code numbers are different however. **The meeting number is 846 4638 6622 and the access code/password 425499.** These should now remain the same until the end of July. Access from about 10.15. Remember, these are chargeable numbers outside a package. Those who have the internet will be given a link to open up the video part.

Community Larder. Thank you for continuing to donate. Drop-off remains the same: Tuesday & Thursday in the Hall, 10-12.

Fr David



Collect

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:

grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;

through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Numbers 11.24–30

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, 'My lord Moses, stop them!' But Moses said to him, 'Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!' And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

Acts 2.1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

John 20.19–23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

Post-Communion Prayer

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

NOTICES

The Church of England's Daily Hope phone line offers hymns, prayers and reflections 24 hrs a day whilst churches are closed. It is particularly aimed at those who are unable to join online services.



Pat Mounce and her family would like to thank everyone for their love and support during this very sad time. We shall be having a celebration service for Robert at alter date