



36A EASTER 6 - ONLINE LITURGY

The Spirit beside us

Abstract

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments and I will ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.

John 14:15-16 (NIV)

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36A Easter 6 - Online Liturgy

The Spirit beside us

Sunday, May 17, 2020 | Easter | Sixth Sunday of Easter | Year A

<i>First Reading</i>	Acts 17:22–31
<i>Psalm</i>	Psalm 66:8–20
<i>New Testament</i>	1 Peter 3:13–22
<i>Gospel</i>	John 14:15–21 ¹

John 14.15-21

Jesus promises his disciples that God will send the Spirit of truth, who will be with them forever. He reminds them that those who love him are those who keep his commandments. These are the ones to whom he will reveal himself.

This week's resources explore: the connection between loving Jesus and keeping his commandments.

	<p>Pre-Service You are the one – Hillsong Worship – Album: “Stone’s been Rolled away”</p>
	<p>Greeting</p> <p>May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ The Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all</p>
	<p>We Gather</p> <p>The Father loves you. The Son loves you. The Spirit loves you. Come and show your love.</p> <p><i>Let us pray</i> Spirit of truth come close to us. Unite us into the body of Christ. Enable us to worship God in Spirit and in truth. Help us to support and encourage each other. Help us to love as we are loved. Spirit of truth, come and be in us. Amen.</p>

¹ [Revised Common Lectionary](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

	<p>Hymn/song TIS #412 – “Spirit Friend” (David Hass)</p>
	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Hi</p> <p>It’s early in the morning now here the sun isn’t quite up yet. I’m trying to get this done before my neighbour a giant digger with a jack hammer attachment gets going like last week.</p> <p>It’s not that I dislike it being there. My granddaughter and I love going and watching it work. The neighbours and their kids come and look too and we say high and exchange enquiries about how we are going all appropriately distanced I this time of isolation.</p> <p>So, let’s start with a story.</p> <p>A couple was traveling when they stopped at a sign that said, "Echo Point." "Try it," the wife suggested. "I think it's silly," her husband said but he agreed to try it. He shouted "this is rubbish" After a moment, he said, "See, nothing happened." "Try it again," his wife said. This time he shouted, "I'm the best-looking bloke in the world!" Then the echo came back "rubbish!"</p> <p>Today, our reading tells us of a gift so incredible, it is hard to believe. Jesus promises his disciples that God will send the Spirit of truth, who will be with them forever.</p> <p>He reminds them that those who love him are those who keep his commandments. Specifically, the one to love one another.</p> <p>These are the ones to whom he will reveal himself.</p> <p><i>Let us pray</i> Gracious God, we come before you, drawn by the power of your welcoming love. We come with our sorrows and joys. We come with our expectations and apprehensions. We come with what we have done. We come as who we are. In your love we find peace and hope. Amen.</p>

Readings*John 14:15-21**The Promise of the Holy Spirit*

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”²

respond

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God**Hymn/song/video**

“On eagle’s wings” – Hillsong Worship Album: Shout to the Lord 2000

We say Sorry

God of love, we are sorry
 that at times our love for you falters;
 that we have wrong priorities;
 that we overlook your guidance.
 O God, forgive us and renew us.

Loving Saviour, we are sorry
 that we disobey your commandments;
 that we fail to love;
 that we walk by on the other side.
 O God, forgive us and renew us.

Spirit of truth, we are sorry
 that we disregard your presence;
 that our thoughts and feelings are unrighteous;
 that we follow the world’s way.
 O God, forgive us and renew us.

May your presence abiding in us lead us in the right way,
 in the name of Jesus.
 Amen.

² [*The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version*](#). (1989). (Jn 14:15–21). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Hymn/Song

ATW #494 – “For you – Deep stillness”

Response**The Spirit inside us****John 14:15-21**

A little boy was riding his tricycle furiously around the block,
 Round and round he goes
 First with great rage
 Then slower and slower as he gets tired
 over and over again.

Finally a policeman stopped and asked him
 why he was going around and around.
 The boy said “I’m running away from home!”
 The policeman asked why he kept going around the block.
 The boy responded, "Because my mum said
 that I'm not allowed to cross the street."

The point is clear—obviously obedience to commandments
 will keep us close to those we love
 and love us

What is the spirit of the age?
 Or, to put it another way,
 what do you feel is the overwhelming spirit
 of the people or community around you at this time?

In many ways
 we might be seeing the best of people in terms of neighbourliness,
 exhibited in the spirit of caring communities
 where we live right now.

Despite social distancing,
 many are communicating and caring for those around them
 in ways they might never have done before.

Last week on the news we heard about
 The 75th anniversary celebrations for VE Day
 the day (8 May) marking the Allied victory in Europe in 1945.

We heard a lot of reminiscing about ‘wartime spirit’,
 And that made me think about
 reflections on the spirit of people here around me
 in this current moment,
 battling the coronavirus situation we find ourselves in,
 as well as being hopeful that it will come to an end at some point.

This week’s Gospel reading, John 14.15-21,
 invites us to make a connection between loving Jesus

and keeping his commandments.
 (This refers back to John 13.34-35,
 Jesus' new commandment to love one another,
 and encourages us to look forward to John 15.9-14,
 where Jesus instructs about a love that lives and grows
 and connects us to him, to God and to one another.)

Jesus promises his disciples
 that he will ask God to give them
 a 'helper' – or 'advocate' or 'comforter' –
 who will be with them always once he himself has physically left them.

This Spirit of God will live (or abide) beside them and inside them.
 This is the Spirit that will create a spirit within each person
 to carry them through the scary trials and challenges
 of the times that lay ahead of them.

Jesus' opening words in verse 15
 create a sense of an endless round:
 if you love Jesus you will keep his commandments to love;
 and in doing so will be loved by his Father;
 and continue to enter into ever deeper
 and more loving relationships through living out his
 commandments.

(You might like to read that last sentence over a few times, and rephrase it in your own words, as its meaning sinks in).

Can you sense it?
 Jesus is beginning to excite the unwitting disciples
 by teasing them with clues about the gift he is going to leave them,
 a farewell present for when he is gone.
 Something instead of Him.

It's probably wrong to say to
 that Jesus is peeling back the corners of the wrapping paper on his gift
 to tantalise them with a glimpse
 because, at this point in John's Gospel,
 he hasn't really wrapped the gift yet,
 let alone labelled it and put a bow around it
 that is still to come in the next few days.

Nevertheless, he is telling them (and us)
 the promised gift of the Spirit,
 when it arrives,
 will give them all they need to model the love of Jesus for others.

How can we model the love of Jesus for others today?
 Whether this gift, for us when we unwrap it,
 bursts out with joy like when my 2 ½ year old granddaughter
 opens her birthday present
 or comforts like the winter sun on a clear cold sunny day
 it will be whatever God needs it to be for us
 to be enabled to lovingly care for others in this present moment.

	<p>The perfect farewell gift.</p> <p>This Spirit is the one who Jesus promises will always be alongside us and within us the one who will never desert us in our hour of need.</p> <p>For some of the many hearing this, this is that hour Take a moment now, receive, then, the Spirit of this age... Amen</p>
	<p>Hymn/song</p> <p>P&W #454 – “Spirit of the Living God”</p>
	<p>Prayers for all people</p> <p><i>I ask you to draw a heart in your mind. Imagine that it is the heart of God, and people or situations that you would like to place in God’s heart, pausing after each one in a moment of prayer.</i></p> <p>May our hearts be as your heart, O God, filled with kindness and with love. Strengthen, support, and fill with peace all those for whom we pray.</p> <p>We are your children, O God: Help us to show your love always, and fill us with the Spirit of truth</p> <p>Dear Lord, we bring into your love those who don’t know you and your love; those who have turned away from you; those who struggle to accept you; those who refuse to listen. May your love touch them, and transform their lives.</p> <p>Dear Lord, we bring into your love those who need parental love; those who are alone; those who are abused; those who are neglected. May your love touch them, and transform their lives.</p>

	<p>Dear Lord, we bring into your love those who seek the truth; those who work in the justice system; those who campaign and advocate on behalf of the voiceless. May your love touch them, and transform their lives.</p> <p>May we show the power and presence of your love in our church, our community, and our world for Jesus' sake.</p> <p>Amen.</p>
	<p>Lord's Prayer</p> <p>Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. AMEN³</p>
	<p>Hymn/song P&W #428 – "Fear Not"</p>
	<p>We are sent out</p> <p>Go in peace to live in love, to show God's love, to receive God's love – everywhere, and at all times. Amen.</p> <p>May the Lord bless us and keep us May His face shine upon us and be gracious to us May he lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace</p>

³ English Language Liturgical Consultation, 1988

	Benediction TIS #650 – Spirit Song
	Thank you