

Sixth Sunday of Easter + 17th May 2020

A simple liturgy for use during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Light a candle. Sit for a few moments to gather your thoughts. Breathe deeply and slowly.

Gathering in God's Presence

Creator God,
you are the life that sustains us
and the hand that claims us;
you are worthy of our praise.

Your love surrounds us,
reaches and finds us, fills us,
spills over in blessings around us.

Your love forgives us,
restores and guides us,
takes us and daily in service empowers us.

Reveal yourself in our gathering,
and by your Spirit join hearts as one in this, our joyful offering.
Amen.

Prayer of Brokenness

Loving God,
your commands are not a burden that we carry,
but the life we freely live.

Forgive us when,
through deliberate or careless talk and action,
we cause you and others pain.

By your Spirit guide and direct us,
in thought, word and deed,
that our lives might better reflect the faith that we proclaim
and become a blessing,
bringing glory to your name.
Amen.

Readings: John 14.15-21

Today's reading is a continuation of Jesus' farewell discourse in John's gospel in which he tells the disciples that those who love him will keep his commandments, and that the Advocate will come.

The Greek word is "paraclete" which can also mean helper or comforter. Jesus promised the disciples he would not leave them alone, that they wouldn't be able to see him, but they would know the love of God because they knew his love.

As we prepare for the season of Pentecost approaching, the season of the work of the Holy Spirit, perhaps God is calling us to be open to new movements of the Spirit in this covid-19 season.



*Where there is charity and
loving friendship
there is god*

For years, voices from the margins have foretold that the church had to change. Now, everyone recognizes that the church has had to adapt.

However, as we recognize the need for prolonged social distancing, studies on the effects of singing and spreading aerosols, we are faced with the reality that the church needs to shift completely.

This is not a temporary adaptation, but perhaps a longer-term change in how we gather, and who God needs us to be. But we are not left orphaned. The Advocate, the Comforter, the Helper, is at work and moving among us.

Faith, Hope, and Love, abide, these three - and the greatest of these is love.

Prayers of intercession

We pray to our loving heavenly Father asking that he will hear us as we pray for those who particularly need to know God's love...

Pray for all who are persecuted for their faith....

May they be strengthened and comforted.

We pray for those who are searching for God...

May all members of the Church make it a beacon to light their way.

We pray for those who are oppressed and marginalised...

May we allow the Holy Spirit working within us to fight for justice for them.

We pray for those who are sick and bereaved and for those who care for them...

May they find comfort and know God's love.

Lord, we know that your Spirit will intercede for us when we do not know how to pray as we ought.

We ask that you receive our prayers,
however imperfect they may be,
for love of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer of Blessing

May we know
the Father's love for the whole of creation.

May we know
the Son's love for those who follow his commands.

May we know
the presence of the Spirit of truth within your hearts.

Amen.

