

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 23rd May 2021, Pentecost.

Old Testament: Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Psalm: Psalm 104: 25-35,37

New Testament: Acts 2: 1-21

Gospel: John 15: 26-27, 16: 4-15

Reflection on the Gospel reading, written by Angela Tilby, Copyright ©The Archbishops' Council 2017.

'When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth'. v13

There is a note of sadness in Jesus' words of farewell to the disciples. The sadness is one of loss, the loss of belonging which the disciples will experience as the infant Church and the Synagogue become estranged in the early years of the Christian era.

Jesus' words here apply beyond his lifetime, and they echo down the centuries to the present day. There has been terrible intolerance between Church and Synagogue, and Jews and Christians are impoverished because of it. But Jesus points beyond his earthly lifetime to the coming of the Holy Spirit. He still has many things to say to his disciples, 'but you cannot bear them now'. The Spirit does not bring his own revelation but continues and expands the teaching of Christ; 'he will take what is mine and declare it to you'. The Spirit is a spirit of prophecy: 'he will declare to you the things that are to come'. The Christian Church has developed through time in ways that would have astonished the early disciples. We can see distortions through history, but also an unfolding of richness and depth that is still going on. The life of the Trinity lived out through the diverse Christian communities around the world is evidence of the Spirit guiding into all truth. That guidance continues into our time because, in the end, truth is inexhaustible. There is always more of God to discover.

Collect for Pentecost

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.

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.



Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am, Sunday Worship; Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm