

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT PRAYER MEETING 17 JUNE 2020

Just a short summary of the key reflections that came out of the meeting. I recommend that you use these as the basis of prayer over the coming week.

We reflected on:

- "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple, and that God's spirit lives in you?" (1 Corinthians 4:19)
- The Holy Spirit is the power of God that created the universe, empowered Christ's ministry and raised him from the dead. That same power lives in us, but is dormant unless we ask the Holy Spirit to work in and through us.
- The Temple was, for the Jews, the sole place of worship, the place of God's presence on earth: how good and generous God is to give each of us our own place of worship. It's amazing that, through Jesus, we have God's presence within us.
- Many of us may be aware to some extent of the Holy Spirit within us, but we can tend to "put him in boxes", whereas the Lord wants us to be so full of the Holy Spirit that we overflow and allow him to flow out from us. He is waiting for us to ask him to work through us.
- The Holy Spirit brings the love of God into the centre of our being: we need to make space for Him.
- It is the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us as we accept the redemption of Jesus into our lives: we can't change or perfect ourselves, we have to ask the Holy Spirit to change us more and more into the image and holiness of Jesus.
- We are made to be part of God: Him in us and us in Him, but imperfect until we are completely united with Him.
- We are, as individuals, all parts of Christ's body and need to work and pray together to bring Christ's kingdom on earth. We each bring our individual gifts together to form one orchestra to play the "Symphony of Creation" (see below*),

We prayed:

- For those people we know who are sick at the moment that the Lord will bless and heal all those who are ill.
- For the service and sacrifices of everyone who works in hospitals.
- That we can comfort those in trouble as we are comforted by the Lord.
- For the schools to return to normal.
- For everyone who is experiencing financial hardship and unemployment: that they will experience the love and support of God.
- For an end to the virus pandemic and for all the scientists developing vaccines
- For all members of our prayer group and for all Christians: to deepen our trust in God, that he can change situations.
- For Fr Niven and the reopening of churches safely, the recruiting of marshals and cleaners and the lifting of restrictions on gatherings.
- For the online Alpha course St Joan's is starting next month: please forward invitations to others. Please consider committing to being a prayer champion for Alpha, praying for it every day
- That we will open ourselves more to all the many blessings and gifts of the Holy Spirit - not to box him in.
- That we will pray not so much asking God to do things for us, but asking Him how He wants us to pray; how He wants to use us.
- That we will take notice of words of inspiration that the Holy Spirit gives us, sharing them at the prayer meeting for discernment by the group.

***The Symphony of Creation**

Do not be afraid my children to join in the music of creation. As notes are each different from each other so are you, each one with its own unique role in the symphony that is my body. Some notes are pitched high and seem to reach the highest heavens, others so low they almost enter the earth. Many notes are played together and others must rest until their time comes. Some notes have their moment only once but that playing is vital to the entire piece for without it the meaning of the music would be destroyed. Loudly, softly, my notes play, with brass, strings and wind instruments. They cannot play without the music and they must sound when the conductor tells them, in complete obedience. On their own the notes may sound hollow or discordant but played together it is sweet music – the symphony of creation. *(Word given to Jenny Osterfield in the 1980s)*

We will be meeting by Zoom again next Wednesday at 8. I will send round the invitation nearer the time and hope once again many can join in.