

ALTON BAPTIST CHURCH
e-SERVICE
SUNDAY 31 MAY 2020
PENTECOST
[Our PRESENT theme is]
JESUS SAID
[Today's saying]
“ BECAUSE I LIVE, YOU ALSO WILL LIVE”

WELCOME and TREAT THESE WORDS AS AN OPENING PRAYER.

- ❖ Yes, a great welcome to our e-Service on this Pentecost Sunday when we remember and celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, firstly on those gathered in His Name and on us as well. So we may be enriched by The Holy Spirit's presence amongst us.
- ❖ We may know of the Spirit's presence connecting us in a similar way as for many of us our Wi-Fi connects our many enabled devices that act as one.
- ❖ So The Holy Spirit does that with us now, as although we are meeting in our own homes, we are connected as one spiritually.
- ❖ May His presence be with us and guide us in the e-Service.

So the our **FIRST HYMN**

1183 - Holy Spirit, living Breath of God

(Let me say that in using YouTube videos we try for words on screen and full number of verses as in our book and well sung. Hopefully, our video hymns are to your liking?)

This hymn is relevant to us today about 'liv(e)ing'; we need the Holy Spirit's living Breath of God. Sing along and enjoy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nbMfLQd2P4>

READING

John 14 : 15 – 31

A somewhat long passage as it does tell the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit. So please read it and be blessed by all the promises made by our Lord. I shall dwell on our saying of Jesus as in verse 19. Please do note the many promises that are made; they are there to encourage us on our walk with Jesus.

Jesus promises the Holy Spirit

¹⁵ 'If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever – ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

¹⁹ Before long,

the world will not see me any more, but you will see me.

Because I live, you also will live.

²⁰ On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.'

²² Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, 'But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?'

²³ Jesus replied, 'Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

²⁵ 'All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give

to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

²⁸ 'You heard me say, "I am going away and I am coming back to you." If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. ³⁰ I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, ³¹ but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

SECOND HYMN

274 I hear the sound of rustling

This hymn is a lively contemporary song alluding to the Holy Spirit with the passage of the wind in leaves. We are aware of the force of the wind and the noise it causes amongst the leaves. I shall say more at the end about the wind of the Holy Spirit as it descended on those present on the Day of Pentecost as described in Acts. So again enjoy and sing along with this lively song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2rSway6Cgc>

NOTICES

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

- ♣ Guidance for our government as they lead us back to normality.
- ♣ Work is so essential to restore our economic growth.
- ♣ For those in the NHS as not only dealing with covid-19 there is no a mountain backlog of urgent treatment and operations to be cleared.
- ♣ For the reunion of families.
- ♣ For the safe resumption of our meeting in our sanctuary.



THIRD HYMN

957 We want to [see](#) Jesus lifted high

Just before we have a look at Jesus' saying, this hymn is about the first part of verse 19, about our seeing Jesus and others not seeing Him. Here the song writer wanted to see Jesus lifted high in triumph as one lifts the winning team Captain high for all to see.

Again sing along with this boisterous singing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LF3Zr3D2UmA>

THOUGHTS

The reading has enough material to keep us busy for several weeks, but we have but a few words. So I will stay with our today's text and quote all of verse 19

Jesus said

“Before long, the world will not **see** me any more, but you will **see** me.

BECAUSE I LIVE, YOU ALSO WILL LIVE”

- So we have two important promises to concentrate on. We as His Followers will **see** Him but the world will **not see** Him.
- We shall see Him -- but some of you may say I do not see His image with my eye sight. We 'see' Jesus in many ways -- our spiritual experience includes not just using our eyes and includes all our senses as – sight, colour, shape, smell, taste, all come into play. Remember we may say we can see someone in the dark, when we know of their presence, without seeing them with our eyes. Do not limit our spiritual encounters as our God moves in mysterious ways.

I tried several YouTube videos, either – no words or not the four verses!

This hymn is a very unusual wording because in earthly terms we normally must not ask for fire as we may all be burnt. Yet of course, on the other hand, when one is sitting at the end of the Northern runway at Heathrow, as Jo and I did for the 10th time in December past, one prays for fire and that to continue in controlled abundance for the engines as the plane and we charge down the runway. Failure of the fire could prove disastrous; similarly we need God's fire to prevent failure in our lives..

Just to finish let us remind ourselves of the words in Acts.

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. **2** Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

So again sing along with this joyous song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qydwzaeVa0>

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank you that we have been able to meet together to worship you and to learn and be encouraged on our walk with you. May we receive your blessings for the week ahead to guide us.