

## **Reflection for the Week: May 16<sup>th</sup>- May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**

### **Ascension to Pentecost....**

The Ascension may bring to mind images of cloud surfing or Jesus' feet disappearing into a cumulus. The Apostles were witnesses to this event, however it happened. They had to wait for the gift that Jesus had promised, but it was not a passive waiting. After the Ascension, Luke tells us that the Apostles 'were continually in the temple blessing God.' The Apostles spend time in prayer waiting for the gift of the Holy Spirit – not just a 2 minute prayer and then on to some proto-church agenda about the bring-and-share and the leaking roof. This prayer was the business; it was united, persistent and ground-breaking. And the prayer sessions included women – which was, to say the least, abnormal for the time. The barriers were coming down. When we pray this week, looking forward to the feast of Pentecost, what do we pray for?

First, we should ask – who are our neighbours? Think of all the people who we don't know, but are known to God, and ask the Lord to introduce you to new people to witness to.

Second, when we pray we should pray in the knowledge that the Holy Spirit is about the Spirit's work and that we are co-workers with the Spirit with God. Pray that we can discern the work of the Spirit and join in.

Third – Pray for five: five new people to join the church here in Trumpington. Or pray for five people you already know to develop a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

In conversation with a wise old friend last week, they said that the most important thing for a church was a praying heart. Who are the praying heart in this church? Who are the members of the Upper Room? Are you called by the Lord to be one of the people in the Upper Room in this place?

During the remaining days until Pentecost we will pray using the TKC Novena (9 days) booklets. They look at the Psalms which can be strange to interpret because each one is often written to include several voices. But there is also our voice to add to a psalm. Our task over the next week is to carry out a 'spiritual eavesdropping'. Let's just 'be there', be present with God for the world. Perhaps we can hear the voice of a friend or family member in the psalm? In prayer, we can lift up these voices to God.

***Take some time to read Psalm 147.*** This psalm is a song of God's people who have experienced the repeated power, triumph and grace of God in caring for them. It is the song of witnesses, and it does 3 things:

- It broadcasts the story of the wonderful acts of God
- it invites those who hear to become part of that story
- it calls on them to make a lot of noise about God; to praise God with their whole being

This psalm is a reminder that our witnessing begins with worship which is full of heartfelt gratitude and joy. Such witnesses to the power and goodness of God do not hold back. The Song on our hearts should be 'Come, Holy Spirit' and be among us; 'Come, Holy Spirit, and fill us with overflowing joy.'

**To reflect:** Who do you know who would benefit from a sense of the Spirit's overflowing joy? Pray for them this week.