

Brooklands Church of the Nazarene

30 May 2021
Issue 62

Pandemic Times

Friends

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. " (Ephesians 4:4-6)

Today is a little known 'feast' of the Church known as Trinity Sunday. A day in the year where some will ponder our central Christian belief that God is both Three, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and One. This is perhaps illustrated in the words above. It's a thought that humbles us to the mystery of God. John Wesley famously put it like this: "Bring me a worm that can comprehend a man, and then I will show you a man that can comprehend the Triune God." And yet, despite its incomprehensibility (triple word score for you scrabble players!), there are some beautiful truths that are displayed in this important doctrine. God is, in essence, a perfect community; and we are invited in to that community; and we are to invite others into that community!

We continue with our preaching series today - Encounters with the Holy Spirit. Over the next few weeks we'll be looking to the Scriptures to answer questions like, 'Who is the Holy Spirit?' and 'What does He do?'

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the special offering for the Covid Crisis in India. I was delighted to announce on Sunday that we managed to raise £2500! That will be transferred across through the Church of the Nazarene and every penny will support that important frontline work.

We had a beautiful time following church last week as we gathered in the car park, sung together in worship(!), and prayed for our community. The weather held out just enough and we were joined by old faces and new. We are continuing to review restriction and will look to provide other opportunities like this one – watch this space! Please continue to pray for us as we navigate these challenging times.

Lastly, a friendly reminder that if you would like a visit from myself or Lucy then please let us know. We are aware that although things are opening up some individuals are remaining cautious. I, particularly want to make up for lost time and meet as many of the church family as possible.

Peace,

Mick



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Prayer Page

India

Please continue to remember the situation in India, and other countries that are struggling to overcome the devastating effects of the Coronavirus.

Church Family

- * For Alan Roberts, son-in-law of Val Batty, who has recently been diagnosed with bowel cancer.
- * A local neighbour of the church, Joan, who regularly attends our community meals, has requested prayer for her friends Gordon and Marion. Gordon has cancer.
- * For Margaret Gallagher, a regular at our community meals, who has recently been moved to a care home in Urmston and has a number of ongoing health issues.
- * For John, Jon, Isobel, Claire, Philomena, Mick Snr., Bill and Sue, and others that might need a healing touch.
- * Give thanks for people that have come into contact for the first time with Brooklands Church recently.

Daily Reading and Prayer Guide for This Week

Date	Reading	Pray for
Monday 31st May	John 8:31–59	Elouise Critchley
Tuesday 1st June	John 9:1–16	Colin Dunbar and family (Margaret)
Wednesday 2nd June	John 9:17–41	Bill and Sue Ellis
Thursday 3rd June	John 10:1–21	Phil Evans and family
Friday 4th June	John 10:22–42	Peter Evans and family
Saturday 5th June	Catch up	Jon Fisher and family
Sunday 6th June	John 11:1–27	Jamie, Maida, Jimson and Jewell Filoteo



Holy Spirit Encounters (2)

Matthew 3:13-17

Pastor Mick Kane.

Sermon Notes for 30 May 2021

Following on from Pentecost last week, and in continuation with the Scriptural Journey we have been on since the beginning of Lent, we are in a new preaching series titled, 'Encounters with the Holy Spirit.' The Holy Spirit empowering the people of God replaces Jesus as the focal point for the Mission of God in the Scriptures, beginning in Acts. Over the next few weeks we'll be looking at some of these encounters and trying our best to explore this question: Who is the Holy Spirit and What does He do?

The Holy Spirit illuminates Jesus in our life. We read in our story that as Jesus came up out of the waters of baptism, signifying new life, rebirth, the Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a dove and rested upon him. Now there is so much that we could play with here around the Holy Spirit being represented as a dove which is a picture of peace, purity, innocence but my favourite explanation on what is happening here is another one of those examples where you need to cast your mind back through the Scriptures to fully understand. And it is linked to the story of Noah, which was our children's story this morning. And you'll remember in the story of Noah that once the rains ceased Noah sent out birds to scout for land. And one of the birds he sends out is a dove. And after the dove first of all returns to the ark signifying that no new lands have yet appeared, it goes out a second time and returns with an olive branch showing a glimmer of hope that life and land has returned. And finally the dove goes out a third time and doesn't return signifying to Noah that the land has returned and it is safe to depart the ark.

Now that dove that was sent out and didn't return, what was it looking for? It was looking for new creation, wasn't it? After all creation had been destroyed in the flood so what followed the flood was a second start if you like. But as we continue to read the story we know that nothing has changed- sin continues to plague the earth. Now here is how it links to our story: what if the reason that dove didn't return wasn't because it landed and found new creation, but because it couldn't find renewed creation. And what if the dove that lands on Christ points us back to that dove to tell us this- new creation has appeared. Creation free from sin and brokenness has appeared and it is to be found in the person of Jesus and that's why the dove can now rest on him!

The Holy Spirit's first role is to illuminate Jesus in our lives. When we enter that same new life, new creation that is to be found in Christ we receive the gift of the Spirit of God who reprioritises things for us. Our lives are reshaped into the way that they were always supposed to be. God first in our lives. And that's what the Spirit does first and foremost. The Spirit of God illuminates Christ in our lives.

Sermon notes continued...

The Holy Spirit leads us into all truth. The next thing that happens after the Spirit of God descends on him like a dove is that he hears the voice of God the Father speaking truth over him: 'This is my Son, whom; with Him I am well pleased.' Jesus here is affirmed in his identity as the Son of God, the Lord and Messiah. And this affirmation, it seems becomes core to everything Jesus does.

The same is true for us. When we are gifted with the Spirit we too are led into all truth (John 16:13). Baptism is all about a new identity. And it's the Spirit of God that works in us to step into these new truths. We too are sons and daughters of God in Christ. We are loved. We are eternally valuable and precious in the sight of God. These are some of the things that begin to be spoken over us by God the Father through the work of the Spirit of God in our lives. And for some of us these truths counteract many of the lies that the world has spoken over us and as result some of us have taken on as our identity. Some of us, because of our experiences have know abandonment and brokenness and grief and pain, and these things have become so prevalent in our life they have become identities - abandoned, unworthy, broken, unwanted. But the Spirit of God brings healing and leads us out of these things if we are willing to be led by him. And it's a beautiful thing. The Holy Spirit leads us into all truth.

The Holy Spirit sends us out empowered on the Mission of God. Now this final role of the Holy Spirit isn't obvious in our text today, well because it doesn't appear at all to be honest. And the reason for that is that down through the years people have tried to be helpful in the way that they have split the Scriptures up for us. Like with the adding of chapter and verse numbers- they didn't appear in the original text of the Bible they were added in later so that we could reference the Bible easily and find all of our favourite bits. But they way they were added was simply by someone who read it and decided that one bit finished here and another started here- new chapter. And the other thing we have in our modern Bibles is these headings that title each section for us. So our story is called 'The baptism of Jesus' and ends with the statement God makes. But as we are reading this as a way of looking at the role of the Spirit what we miss is what happens immediately after:

As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil...

When we read it like this we see a continuation in the work of the Spirit in Jesus as it leads him out and into the desert in preparation for his mission and ministry.

And again, the same is true for the work of the Spirit in us. God's gift of His Spirit isn't something to be kept and enjoyed all on our own. The real gift is when we share it with others; something the Spirit also empowers us to do. That's when we enjoy the fullness of the gift of God's Spirit- when we share it. The Holy Spirit sends us out empowered on the Mission of God.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOU

FREE CAR WASH

ran by Churches in Wythenshawe

SATURDAY 5TH JUNE 10AM-4PM

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH CAR PARK



Community Car Clean

Car drivers. Get yourselves along to St Luke's Church on Brownley Road next Saturday, for a free car wash.

More importantly, pray that the event goes well, and that many residents of Wythenshawe will be blessed.

Church Attendance

We are carefully managing Sunday attendance in line with government guidelines, in an effort to keep everyone safe. Please let Mick, Mark or Lucy know if you would like to attend church on Sunday.

Brooklands Church of the Nazarene

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At Brooklands, we are big enough to be part of a world-wide denomination, yet small enough to invite you to make our church your home. Please visit our website and contact us if you would like to get in touch or need more information on any of our events.

During the Coronavirus pandemic, we are holding weekly services on our YouTube channel, starting at 10:30 am each Sunday.

We look forward to welcoming you to our fellowship!

