



Love God
Love Others



Ramsgate Salvation Army

Sunday 22nd May 2022

A warm welcome as we gather as the family of God today,
especially if you are not normally with us on a Sunday.

May we all feel the welcome of God and each other.

We meet at The Salvation Army Hall Sunday 10.30 am.

Also Sunday worship is livestreamed on  **YouTube**

You can find a link on the Ramsgate Salvation Army page

www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ramsgate

**“Any man or woman on this earth
who is bored and turned off by
worship is not ready for heaven.”**

—A.W. Tozer



**“We were made for worship and our hearts are restless
until they have found the object of worship that we were
created to honour.”** (Dalla Willard. Spirit of The Disciplines).



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www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ramsgate

What's happening at Ramsgate Salvation Army?

Sunday 22nd May (10.30 am and 2pm) Presentation from KENYA TRUST
 Fund Raising Sunday Roast Dinner £5 per person. And Free Will Offering.
 CD "Keys for Kenya" performed by Patricia Owen available for £10



Registered Charity in England No. 1105495

Monday to Friday (6.30am-9am) Breakfast Drop-in
 Monday (9.30 am – 11.30 am) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler group)
 Monday (6pm) Alpha and ACES
 Tuesday (9am to 12 noon) Food Parcel Preparation
 Tuesday (11am) Membership Class week 9
 Tuesday (12 noon) Light Lunch
 Tuesday (12.30 pm) Prayers at hall and Bible Study at hall
 Tuesday (7.30 pm) at our hall.

Bible Study
Led by Dr Robin Plant



And on YouTube

Wednesday (11 am) Friendship Club & Luncheon Club
 Thursday Carl at Elmley. Forward Trust at hall.
 Friday (10am - 12 noon) THY KINGDOM COME 11 DAYS OF PRAYER
 Friday (6.00pm) Food Bank
 Saturday 28th May KIDS Club



GOOD NEWS – Dacia and Ambrose are expecting a baby in the Summer. Heather is collecting gifts for them and the baby

Sunday 29th May Ascension Sunday. Alpha group away at Minster in the afternoon.



Flowers for this week are thanks to **Ilona**

Birthdays

No birthdays this week (unless you tell me otherwise)

We pray by name for

Isaiah and **Elijah** following the tragic death of their father Kevin.

For **Averil** admitted twice to QEQM following an unknown allergic reaction.

For Sheila's friend **Marilyn** also in QEQM.

Tracy's dad **Ivor** in hospital in London.

Lauren, a young friend of Mel and Daniel. Nathan aged 13, who is in pain and unable to walk following recent treatment for cancer. Pray too for his mum Joyce.

For **Paul Letts** still recovering after his heart attack and operation. For **Jo Harrington** suffering from shingles. For Janet's son, **Richard** for a diagnosis for his medical concerns.

For **Eileen's sister Margaret** following her cancer operation on 20 May.

For **Major Brenda Austin** for her operation on 6th June.

For **Cathy and Paul**, friends of **Douglas** who are nearing end of life.

For **Sasha** as she waits for test results. Pray for complete healing.

We continue to uphold **David Miles**, **John McCairn** and **Jan** waiting for medical treatment. For **Cheryl** as she prepares to enter hospital. We won't see her now until after her recovery. We thank God that **Janet**, Peter Borrough's sister, is now recovering at home after her hospital operation and subsequent complications.

For Kim, his sister, and his family and friends following the recent death of **Paul Wales**.

Finally a friend of Douglas who is in need of much prayer support at this time. Continue to pray for the lead chaplain at Elmley, **Nick**. His ministry is very demanding, and we ask it will be continually strengthened and blessed. Pray for healing.

Alone with none but you, my God, I journey on my way.

What need I fear, when you art near O King of Night and Day?

More safe am I within Your hand than if a host did round me stand. [Columba, C.521 - 597]



The aim of this small inclusion to our newsletter is to enable and stimulate your personal prayers over these days of Thy Kingdom Come. It is based on material written by Archbishop Justin Welby.

Beginning on Ascension Day (Thursday 26th May) until Pentecost Sunday (5th June) Christians around the globe, from all denominations, are invited to hold as a focus for their prayers a desire for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit – upon them, their friends and the church. The Holy Spirit is God's promised presence with us, enabling us to be witnesses ourselves of the heavenly Father's revolutionary love for us in Christ first-hand, and then be witnesses to Jesus to the world.

The prayer is simply,

"Come Holy Spirit"

And the promise is sure:

⁹ 'So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!' [Luke 11:9-13]

These are days set aside for asking, searching, and knocking for the gift of the Holy Spirit. This will be done by focussing each day's prayer on one of the images of the Holy Spirit from the Bible: Power, Breath, Fire... Each reflection will follow the same pattern: Enter, as we reflect on the image of the Holy Spirit; Hear, as we read God's word; Respond, as we consider what this means for us; and pray as we engage with God.

And we pray this, not merely for ourselves, but for five friends, neighbours, colleagues or family members for whom it is our greatest hope and desire that they themselves may hear the call of Jesus and join us along the Way.

1

2

3

4

5

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy.

[St Augustine of Hippo]

POWER Thursday 26th May

Look around you – what can you see that only works because of the energy supplied to it? Where do you need God's energy today?

Hear

'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth'.

[Acts 1:8]

Jesus speaks His final earthly words on this Ascension Day. We hear a commissioning – disciples are to be witnesses. How can we fulfil such a calling? Every instruction of God is grounded in a guarantee. Every command is based on a promise. For Jesus knows there is no way we can be witnesses without the power of the Holy Spirit. After all, Jesus Himself, 'the true and faithful witness', was utterly reliant on the Holy Spirit. Why would we think it any different for us?

Respond

How do you respond to Jesus' charge to be His witness? In what areas are you in need of the empowerment of His Spirit? Name your five, the five people you have committed to pray for during these 11 days, before the Lord.

Pray

'Come Holy Spirit ... renew me that I might be a fitting witness to Christ and open those I have named before you to your life, that they themselves come to be witnesses to Your love'.

BREATH Friday 27th May

Enter

On an average day we take 20,000 breaths.

In this moment be aware of your breath. Thank God for it.

Hear

Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' [John 20:21-22]

In the story of the day of resurrection we notice how many echoes there are of our beginnings – or, literally, our Genesis. It's on the first day, in a garden, and now when Jesus meets His disciples, He performs a parallel action to that of the Lord God in Genesis 2 who 'formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being'.

This is not a return to the past – but an anticipation of the future. The breath of the resurrected one is the Holy Spirit – the life of God's existence. It is air which can only be ours because Jesus breathes on us.

Respond

As you breathe in and out five times name your five before the Lord.

Pray

'Come Holy Spirit ... breathe Your breath into me that I may be Your new creation, and breathe into life those I hold before You.'

WATER Saturday 28th May

Enter

Have you ever been uncomfortably thirsty? What did you first gulp of water taste like? What are you thirsty for now?

Hear

O God, You are my God, I seek You, my soul thirsts for You;
my flesh faints for You,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
[Psalm 63:1]

Of course, we would prefer not to admit it. It feels rather a failure of our spiritual life, but our lives are arid and bone-dry, parched and barren. We are desperately in need of God.

It is pride that stops us admitting this; but it is only when we concede how dry our lives are that we will turn, desperate, to the one who promises the living water of the Spirit. The Lord is waiting for us to express our need and desire for His presence.

Respond

Consider your spiritual dehydration. Consider what the lives of your five might be with His water of life.

Pray

'Come Holy Spirit ... bring Your living water to my thirsty soul. Create in those I name before You a deep thirst for Your refreshment, then send Your Spirit to satisfy it.'

FIRE Sunday 29th May

Bring to your mind a time when you were comforted near fire.

Bring to mind a time you were scared by fire.

Bring to mind a time when you were in awe of the force of fire.

Hear

'I baptise you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry His sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.' [Luke 3:16]

Why does John the Baptist emphasise that the one coming after him will baptise with fire? John's baptism of repentance was in water. Water cleans and washes – it takes the dirt and grime from the outside. But it doesn't change the inside. It doesn't alter what the thing is, in itself. But fire melts things down, it re-forms, re-shapes and re-constitutes.

When the Holy Spirit was poured out from heaven, we are told there appeared one each of them something like a tongue of fire.

The fire of the Spirit comes to us to re-create us. Only Jesus can bring us this baptism. Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to remake us. Whilst we understandably are drawn to the warmth of the fire of his love, we often shrink back from being remade in his crucible.

Respond

In what ways may the fire of the Spirit remake you?

As you name your five before the Lord let the truth that the fire of the Spirit can bring about a change within them that is only possible by God kindle your hope.

Pray

'Come Holy Spirit ... remake me and those I lift before You with the fire of Your love.

DOVE OF PEACE Monday 30th May

Enter

The peace that God brings to us is utterly different from any peace that is offered by the world about us. We often forget this and seem to settle for less than God has for us, or confuse it with ease or lack of difficulty.

In what particular areas of your life do these words of Jesus speak to this day? 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.' [John 14:27]

Hear

Now when all the people were baptised, and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with You I am well pleased. [Luke 3:21-22]

Only in the account of Jesus baptism does the Holy Spirit appear in the form of a dove. But of course we bring in all the mentions of the peace that is ours in the Spirit. In our imaginations this dove of peace is usually a brilliant white spotless creature. However, Luke uses the word for a different type of dove; a rock dove. A rock dove is of nondescript colour and is so named because it lays its eggs in the inner recesses of caves and dark places. The picture we see is of the Holy Spirit as the one who brings life in the deepest and darkest recesses of our life.

This is the peace of God. Coming into our deepest and most hidden places, the inaccessible places, and there bringing, creating and generating peace.

Respond

In what places do you need the Spirit of peace to effect peace? When you look at the lives of your five friends you might wonder at what point God might begin His work in them. The dove of the Spirit desires to bring life in their deepest places. Pray they would come to desire that

OIL Tuesday 31st May

Enter

Oil has always been highly prized and precious. It's not just what it does, but what it signifies. The anointing of someone in scripture is an initiation ceremony which changes the status and vocation of the person being anointed. 'Messiah' literally means 'anointed one'. Jesus is called Christ because He is anointed, and we bear His name 'Christians' because we are anointed in Him by the Spirit.

Hear

He sent and brought David in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one'. Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.

[1 Samuel 16:12-13]

The gospel declares a truth over us which is irreversible and irrevocable. By the Holy Spirit we are 'in Christ' and so are now the beloved children of God, eternally bound to Christ. This is the truth of who we are. There are great riches for our lives as we take hold of this reality.

Regularly there are further areas of our lives to which we can apply this. The oil of the Spirit gets in between the joints and mechanism of our lives into these areas. On a daily basis we can invite the Spirit to enable us to realise the truth of who we are.

Respond

If you are brutally honest, in what areas of your life is the reality of Christ lacking? When you consider how the love of God might begin to get under the skin of your friends, how might the image of the oil of the Spirit permeate any barriers?

Pray

'Come Holy Spirit ... may Your anointing Spirit seep into every area of our lives, that who we are might reveal Your love.

COMFORTER/ADVOCATE Wednesday 1st June

Enter

What is it you really need?

How we answer this question is disturbingly revealing about us.

It indicates what we recognise as most necessary, as most essential.

Whilst our initial meeting points with God are our perceived needs, we also know that God, as our creator and redeemer, is the one who most truly diagnoses us. And what is given to us by Christ Jesus in his Spirit is that which is most basic and profound to us: Himself

Hear

'I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, because He abides with you, and He will be in you'. [John 14:16-17]

In some of the final words of Jesus' earthly life, we are let in on Jesus' desire that the Father give us what is most essential to us. These days we don't really talk about advocates – except maybe in legal circles. But other words are 'helper', 'defender', 'comforter', 'supporter'. This is one who stands by your side, argues your case in front of others and has your back. This is someone unreservedly for you.

Notice that Jesus says the Spirit is 'another' advocate – because Jesus Himself is the first. The Spirit, not bound by the physical limitations of Jesus of Nazareth, who could only be in one place and one time, is therefore one who is sent to us to continue the ministry of Jesus – God with us.

WIND Thursday 2nd June

Enter

If you can, take a look outside and notice the pattern of the wind.

Think about all the things that are mysterious about the wind; where it comes from, the different force of it.

Hear

'The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes? So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit'. [John 3:8]

The picture of the Holy Spirit as wind can be disconcerting. For who can control the wind? Who can predict its pattern or pathway?

But I wonder if this is the gift of this metaphor for us – it emphasises how out of our hands the work of the Spirit is and underlines how God is the one who initiates the Spirit's movement. The best place to be is always in the pathway of the Holy Spirit. I remember reading an interview with a woman who had circumnavigated the globe single handed. She was asked about the most terrifying moments of storms and gales. Her answer was that those moments weren't the worst: the most frightening times by far were when there was no wind and there was no movement for days.

Respond

We need the wind of the Spirit to blow. Pray that God would choose to send His strong Spirit to us, and most particularly to the five you are praying for.

Pray

'Come Holy Spirit, blow upon us and cause us to be moved by the strength of Your presence.'

GUARANTEE Friday 3rd June

Enter

What is your deepest hope? What is your clearest certainty?

Hear

For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. [2 Corinthians 5:4-5]

The gift of the Holy Spirit is a promise, an anticipation of what will be. The image is taken from everyday life in the first century where the commitment to pay for something in full was given by the putting down of a deposit. The down payment was tangible security of intention – the full amount is promised, this pledge will be made good on. It is guaranteed.

The Spirit is the first instalment of the future promise – one day we will know the full presence of God. But until then God's presence amongst us by His Spirit encourages and assures us of God's faithfulness.

Respond

Take some time to trace the presence of the Spirit in you and around you. Naming your five friends before God pray that the Spirit might begin a work in them which He will bring to completion.

Pray

'Come Holy Spirit and create in us a longing, expectation, and hope for the fullness of your presence.

WORDS Saturday 4th June

The Spirit is the speech-giving Spirit – sent to us so that we might hear and speak life-giving words.

It is only through the agency of the Holy Spirit we cry 'Abba Father' and 'Jesus is Lord'. It is only because of the Spirit that a way is opened up for us to hear and speak to God. It is only by being enabled by the Spirit that we can bear effective witness to Jesus.

Hear

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. [Acts 2:4]

The gospel is a communication event. It can only be responded to when it has been proclaimed. And it can only be proclaimed when God has sent and equipped witnesses. It is news which needs to be brought and a primary way it is brought is by being spoken. The Spirit doesn't inspire generalities and slogans, rather by the Holy Spirit we speak a language, a dialect. As the Spirit is poured out the witnesses proclaim the good news literally in the languages of the people. This is the miracle – each one hears the good news in their own language.

Respond

Are you ready to trust the Holy Spirit to enable you to speak about the good news in ways others can understand? As you speak the names of your five friends pray that they might hear God speaking their names.

Pray

'Come Holy Spirit, give us words to tell of Your love that all may hear Your voice summoning them in love

PERSONAL Sunday 5th June

ENTER

The good news of God's love for all is personal. It might be you can recall specific times when someone spoke to you of God's love and it was as if you were being addressed personally. If so, thank God for such times. If not, do not be anxious; the Lord knows you and is for you. Pray that God would come afresh to you, personally.

Hear

And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. [Acts 2:2-3]

In the telling of the story of Pentecost we notice the Holy Spirit is poured out on the community – all who are in the upper room – yet tongues of fire separate out on each person.

The Holy Spirit is a gift for all. But He is given personally, distinctly, to each one. And He is given to each one so that they may, in turn, be agents of the good news to others. What does it mean to you that your reception of the Spirit is unlike anyone else's? And that you will be enabled to speak in a specific way to particular individuals?

Respond

Sit with the weight of this responsibility – laid on you by the Lord – remembering that in the empowering presence of the gift of His Spirit you have all you need.

How might your next contact with your five show a dependence on the God who speaks through you?

Pray

'Come Holy Spirit give voice to our witness, that we might be able to speak the good news in words those around us can understand.