

Fellow Christians

Following the days of his ascension and the celebration of Pentecost, Jesus' followers gathered in expectancy of the Father's promise that will function as a baptism, an initiation that will enhance theological understanding.

The deduction they made for waiting was to pray. It attests to when the disciples asked Jesus how they should pray to experience the Kingdom about which he was preaching and revealing through his life.

We know the 'Lord's Prayer' well. It is valued for its emphasis on relationship, of worship and dependency. It is possible that in the days preceding Pentecost that the disciples would indeed have done as their rabbi taught them. The prayer makes real the kingdom of God, as potently experienced on the Day of Pentecost.

The Kingdom embodies the dreams and visions of a better world that can only truly be imagined by God. We are given images of it in the poetic descriptions of prophets like Joel who says, "I [God] will pour my Spirit on all flesh; your children shall prophesy, the old shall dream dreams and the young see visions," and Isaiah that says, "the Spirit is poured upon us from high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field."

Prayer is not so much the words, but the place from which they are said that move God and awaken us to a longing that we often silence, a longing to commune with our loving Parent. The Day of Pentecost marks the day when the church became the Church, when a group of people were empowered to witness the Kingdom of God in real terms, that of the prophets' and psalmists' vision of a world lived by mercy, justice and truth.

St George's is hosting a week of prayer from Monday 17 May to Friday 21 May, between Ascension and Pentecost. United in prayer and in the 'breaking of the bread,' the Eucharist will be celebrated daily at 12 noon, except for Wednesday when we will have our regular midweek service at 9:30. The church will be open from morning to afternoon for you to enter a sacred space of contemplation. There will be 'prayer stations,' with guided prayers and meditations on specific topics.

During the Eucharist the priest will offer up to God the prayers and petitions of the people (that can be submitted via email or by dropping off a note in the box that will be earmarked for prayers) and will be available to anoint the sick.

If you cannot get time off from work to pray at church, simply pray the Lord's Prayer three times a day, adding your own needs and petitions for those you care.

For more information contact Nomawethu in the parish office,
Rev Eben