

Intercessory Prayers

Lord we come before you this morning with humble hearts asking you to fill us anew with your Holy Spirit. As we heard two weeks ago the Holy Spirit came like a gentle dove of peace, but it is also a fire that ignites. Once the Holy Spirit has entered our lives it makes us view things we see and things we do differently as our senses now come through God. But Lord we all too often feel inadequate and feel we let you down because we don't feel -

- good enough
- kind enough
- clever enough
- patient enough
- as unselfish as we think we should be

But you gave us your Holy Spirit to be our Helper and our Comforter. He is our love, joy, patience, and peace.

Spirit of life - Fill our emptiness with your fullness

We ask for the hope and comfort of your Spirit for those whose lives are overshadowed by illness or pain and for those whose lives are darkened by sorrow or bereavement.

Spirit of power - Stir our hearts afresh

We ask for the peace and joy of your Spirit for those living in the shadow of war and violence; for those eaten up by guilt and anxiety and for those whose Christian life has become hard and dry.

Spirit of love - Touch us, and through us, our friends and neighbours

Spirit of Creativity - Enable and empower the gifts you have given us and we ask for the guidance and strength of your Spirit for those uncertain how to use their time, talents and gifts; enable and empower us to nurture those gifts you have given us so that we may use them for your Glory.

Spirit of Eternity - Draw us ever deeper into your Kingdom

Loving God, we ask for the assurance of your Holy Spirit and to know your presence is with us in our daily lives: in our relationships; in our work and service; in our worship; in our times of joy and of pain. Draw us ever deeper into your Kingdom. And heavenly father, we come before you as your humble servants, we come before you today in need of hope. Today, in our frightening new millennium, people's hearts are failing them for fear. Who doesn't wonder if our world is running out of peace? Your commandments are broken daily. People are walking out of meaningful relationships. Love is in short supply and many are running out of purpose and meaning in their lives. People are depressed, overeating, and desperately searching for comfort and intimacy. And even those in church are running out of energy and ideas about how to fulfil the great commission and reach our generations with the gospel.

A world running on empty. People running on empty.

Lord of the past, the present and the future - when all seems dark around us and all hope seems lost. We need you Lord, in our darkest hours to give us hope and comfort. Fill us with your light from head to toe. Let your Holy Spirit within us turn our darkness and despair into light and hope.

Like the child who has had enough and asks 'Can I go home?' let us realise that we are home. We are home safe in your arms, we are home in this your church with our family and our friends.

Isaiah 42:v16 says

This is the promise of God: I will lead the blind by a road they do not know, by paths they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I will do, and I will not forsake them.

God of Light, I pray that your light will shine through us like a city on a hill. May we be a reflection of your love and mercy in this world that others see you reflected in us. Help us to walk in your light, and live our lives through your Holy Spirit in faith, in hope and for your glory. Teach us – in every situation to stop and think – “What would Jesus do?”

Amen.

This was written and prayed by Jan at Beacon Church morning service 26.02.2017