



Martin Bird's Prayers for Monday 17th – Sunday 23rd May

Monday

Reading – John Chapter 16, verses 29 to the end

Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God." "Do you now believe?" Jesus replied. "A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Lord Jesus, we know you came from God and we know you are the Messiah. We believe. Help us to know with your certainty that we too are never alone because your Father is always with us, just as He is always with you. May we and your whole world know your peace at this tough time, and may we all truly take heart because, no matter what is happening in the world, we know that you have overcome it. Thank you Lord Jesus, bringer of Peace, and resurrected Saviour, Amen

Tuesday

Reading – John Chapter 17, verses 1 to 11

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

"Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one."

Lord Jesus, Son of God, help us in our everyday lives to truly give you the glory. Thank you that because of you and all you did during your time on earth, we too can know the joy of eternal life with our Father and your Father. Help us to always know and remember you in our lives, and because of that knowledge, to truly know the one true God, and to show that knowledge in all we do, all we say and all we are. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory Lord Jesus, now and forever, Amen

Wednesday

Reading – John Chapter 17, verses 11 to 19

I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Holy Father, the one true God, as Jesus prayed, so we pray today. Protect us all from the evil one, protect us by the power of your name and protect us from ourselves when we are tempted to walk away from you. Father, may we be truly sanctified by the truth – the truth that is your Word. May we read your word today and everyday and find that truth for ourselves, and as we do so, may we also show that truth to others, so that more and more people may be saved, just as we are saved through your love, and through the love of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Saviour. Help us to be like the disciples, and be in the world but not of it. May people see by our very actions, words and our very being the joy that comes following Jesus, and the real change that our faith makes in our lives. May we never be ashamed to be different for you, and may we always do your will in our lives, rather than the will of the world. Thank you Lord God, that we know, for sure, that you are always there for us to help us in our walk with you – help us to continue to travel with you in the name of your Son and our Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

Thursday

Reading – John 17, verses 20 to the end

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one - I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

Father God, may we be in you so that the world will truly know that you sent Jesus to the world to save us all. May your world be brought together in unity just as you created it to be, and may we, in that unity, come together to save your world from the damage we have done to it. Jesus, may the love that your Father had for you be truly in us today and may we spread your love to all we know and meet, so that more and more people may come to know you, so that the Jesus shaped hole in so many people's hearts may be filled by the one true Saviour rather than all the rubbish they try to fill it with. Help us to be your people here on earth, and help us to help people know you and the know the hope and joy that comes knowing you in their lives. Amen

Friday

Reading – John Chapter 21, verses 15 to 19

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

Lord Jesus, when we read your reinstatement of Peter, it serves to give us great hope. Because of what we read, we know, for sure, that whatever we do, if we come back to you and truly repent, you and your Father welcome us back with open arms. Lord Jesus, we truly love you – help us to show that love to as many people as we can so that more and more people may either come to you for the first time, or return to you after time away. May all who come to you know the hope and love of God in their lives, and your love for them which took you to the cross so we would all be truly saved. In your name we pray, Amen

Saturday

Reading – John Chapter 21, verses 20 to the end

Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?” Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.” Because of this, the rumour spread among the believers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?” This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

Lord Jesus, thank you that your followers wrote down what you did so that we, 2000 years later, could read it for ourselves and know that it is true. We know you did many things and that we only know some of them. We also know that, despite all that you did and said, still there were people who didn't believe in you. Lord, in the world today, where we can see that so many people still don't believe in you, we can also see the results of people not behaving as you would want them too. So often your love doesn't get a look in. Lord, help us to truly show your love to all people so that it may spread across the world and, in so doing, may all people in your world know you and your love and what it means for them. May your world come together in joy and love, as we all worship you and your Father, the one true God. Amen

Sunday – Whit Sunday

Pentecost

Reading – Acts Chapter 2, verses 1 to 21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs - we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.” Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

**“In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.
Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.
I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.
The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.’**

Lord Jesus, thank you for the coming of the helper you promised before you left this world.

Thank you for the Holy Spirit that came from your Father and our Father in Heaven. We know that the Holy Spirit really did come down on your disciples that day and so we also know, for sure, that it is real. So we ask today, Lord God, that your Holy Spirit would come down upon us and would change us from the inside out, so that we can shine out in you and so that the world would truly know that you do live in us. Come Holy Spirit, come Holy Spirit, come down upon us now and lead us in the way of the Lord in our lives. Help us to focus on you more in our lives so that we can know you in all we do. Come down upon us Holy Spirit – we pray that we would truly know your presence just as the disciples did that day.

Amen