



New Creation Churches

May 2021

Prayer Diary

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

2 Corinthians 2:12

A New Beginning

For most of us, the story of Pentecost is a familiar one – a rushing wind, tongues of flame, speaking in other languages, and the birth of the church. In going over those exciting happenings, it can be easy to overlook the scale of the miracles taking place deep within the disciples. I'd like to focus on Peter to show what a sea-change had taken place in his life.

Peter had been, for most of Jesus' ministry, a loud, bold-as-brass, open-mouth-before-engaging-brain sort of guy. He appeared to have oodles of confidence and bravado, but when it came to the crunch on the night of Jesus' arrest, he turned into a scaredy-cat coward who ran away, weeping at his own weakness. We also know the story of the subsequent breakfast-time encounter at Tabgha on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus restores Peter to his position among the disciples.

But even after that, how much had really changed in Peter's life? We read that on the Day of Pentecost the disciples, including Peter, were gathered together with the doors locked, for fear of the Jews; not much sign of courage or confidence here. Then, everything changes. The Holy Spirit comes, and I can't help wondering if the changes deep within Peter, along with the rest of the disciples, weren't actually far more dramatic than the outward manifestations we often focus on. Peter goes on to preach a sermon that changes hundreds, even thousands of lives. Peter has changed. His fear is gone, and his mess has turned into a message. And later, when he and John are brought before the Sanhedrin, they answer with bold confidence. The power of the Holy Spirit has changed them profoundly.

Most of us, if we're being honest with ourselves, have a list of areas of our lives where we want to change. Perhaps habits or attitudes that we've struggled with for years yet failed to fix (and I bet my list is longer than yours!). And that's where the Holy Spirit is longing to come in and help us. It might not be easy sometimes to admit how much help we need let alone ask for it, yet once we do, the help that becomes available to us is limitless.

Perhaps this Pentecost is the time for a new beginning in our lives, a time to come humbly yet boldly before the throne of grace and find that help and power we need to transform our lives beyond recognition, into the fullness of life that God yearns to see in each and every one of us.

Bible Verses

2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

2 Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

ANSWERS TO PRAYER:

- Give thanks for the gradual easing of lockdown opportunities to meet friends and family again

A reminder of what the Prayer Diary is about:

The prayer diary reminds us to pray each day for a person in the church, a street or organisation, and a diary event, and informs and directs our prayers, underpinning and supporting the day-to-day work of the churches in Banwell and Congresbury. The Diary is circulated to St Andrew's electoral roll in both Anglican churches and Congresbury Methodist members.

Please keep it in a handy place to use each day .

The aim is that once every five months every person in the churches, each village & church organisation / group & each village street will be prayed for. **If you have not yet been included (and wish to be) please contact Congresbury Church Office (01934 833126).**

YOUR FEEDBACK IS WANTED

We would welcome any feedback and news of prayer answers / requests. Please contact the Congresbury Church Office (01934 833126) with your suggestions, answers to prayer, and any specific prayer requests. *Please could you get these to the Church Office by 20th May, Thank you.*

Current Prayer Diary Editorial team: David Ashton-Hilton, Mo Barber, Avril Chadwick, Grace Isaac, Ian Stocker, Rosemary West

New Creation churches -Prayer During the Day

O Lord, open our lips and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.
This is the day that the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it. *(Psalm 51.15, Ps 118.24)*

As we recall God's faithfulness we pray:

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. *(Lam 3:22-23)*

The Word of God

the psalm for today is in this month's Prayer Diary.
The Bible readings for today are in this month's Prayer Diary.

Response *silence and a time for individual reflection*

Prayers

please use today's entry in the prayer diary to guide your intercessions

The New Creation Prayer:

Loving God, you are one-
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, united in peace.
Unite our two traditions and village communities into one body- your body, and sustain our rich diversity we pray.
We give you thanks for your commitment to your people of every age and place.
We ask for your help to fulfil our commitment to you and each other.
Grant us your peace , that we might grow in patience and humility,
and help us to leave behind all that might hinder our unity as we walk with you.
Enable us , by your Spirit , to work together in peace in a new way,
to love our neighbours as ourselves and to honour Christ as Lord. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer *is said*

The Conclusion

Bind unto yourself the name,
the strong name of the Trinity;
by invocation of the same,
the Three in One and One in Three.
Of whom all nature hath creation,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
praise the Lord of your salvation,
salvation is of Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

(St Patricks breastplate prayer)
If you would like to join with others in saying daily prayer, please see Pew News for details for the coming month.