

## 2026 05 10 WORSHIP AT HOME

Dear friends,

I am sorry that I haven't been able to send W@H to you for the past two weeks, but I caught a virus which has knocked me for six! I am improving steadily but still have a cough and fatigue but shall do what I can. This week we hear how Jesus promises to send the Spirit of Truth and reminds us that those who love him are those who live by his commandments. Truth is a precious commodity often devalued by those with their specific agendas – we have to learn how to distinguish truth from comfort and to live appropriately. As always, I have had you on my mind and I wish you all every blessing, Margaret.

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### Call to worship:

Come to the living God – to the Spirit promised by Jesus – to the Comforter, our Advocate.  
Come and worship.

Living God, Spirit within us, we come now to worship you in spirit and in truth.  
Be real and known to us.

Help us, for a moment, to put aside fripperies and glitz – all the jobs still to be done, the tasks that await us. Help us to look instead to you for truth, meaning and purpose.  
Make yourself known to us in the words and in the silence. Amen.

### The words to 'Love divine' written by Charles Wesley [1707-1788]

### Singing the Faith 503

1 Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu. Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

2 Come, almighty, to deliver, let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return and never, never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy host above,  
Pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

3 Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise!

### Prayer

With you, O God, we are surrounded by love, by meaning and purpose, peace and completeness.  
You are our all, our grounding, and our reason for being.  
You are our truth and in you we put our trust – in you we believe – in you we find strength and purpose, joy and hope.  
You are known to us in our imperfection – we glimpse you and marvel at the wonder of the revelation.  
We hear an echo and we strain our ears to hear it again.  
We sense your presence and we tense our being wanting more.  
You are within us and yet beyond us.  
We adore you for what we know and for what is still to be revealed. Amen.

Spirit of God, move within us. Illuminate our minds and our beings to see our failings and our faults – to see our neglect of those around us, of those who are lonely and untouched by the love of others or their love of you.

Forgive us for being so self-centred that often others get pushed to the periphery of our living and our loving.

Forgive us that so often our faith is an add-on and not an imperative in our daily lives.

Illuminate our lives so that our faith in you and our knowledge of your love permeates our every word and breath. Amen.

The Spirit of God moves within us, floods our being, cleanses and renews us, setting us free of burdens and pains, all those faults and failings which stop us from being the people we are called to be.

The Spirit of God never leaves us or abandons us.

Be assured – forgiveness is ours. Amen.

God, you show us how relationships should be – generous, open, caring, supportive, loving.

You gave us Jesus to walk this earth and live among the daily living, loving, doing, being.

You sent your Spirit to be our constant companion, to stay with us for ever.

You gave us a blue-print – commandments to guide us.

You give us dreams and visions of life to come.

The Spirit of God moves among us and within us. Thanks be to God.

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come and thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**John 14: 15-21 taken from The Holy Bible: Easy-To Read Version. Copyright 2006 by World Bible Translation Centre, Inc and used by permission.**

‘If you love me, you will do what I command. I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever. The Helper is the Spirit of truth. The people of the world cannot accept him, because they do not see him or know him. But you know him. He lives with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you all alone like orphans. I will come back to you. In a very short time, the people in the world will not see me anymore. But you will see me. You will live because I live. On that day you will know that I am in the Father. You will know that you are in me and I am in you. Those who really love me are the ones who not only know my commands but also obey them. My Father will love such people, and I will love them. I will make myself known to them.

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St John’s Gospel is about the love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ. God has created us out of his love, by his love and for his love. He wants us to love him as he loves us . But he will not force himself upon us. We have the freedom to ignore God and go against him if we so choose. The Christian way of life is one of love rather than law. We seek to do what is right not because of a set of rules but out of love. If we do not love, we are not likely to walk in the ways of God. Devotion comes before obedience.

This is what Jesus is telling the disciples when he says: 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments.'

Love is God's gift of himself and our response is to love him in return – and in this way our love grows. Faith is not a set of beliefs or keeping a book of rules; it is a living, loving relationship with Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are not alone in the world, for the Spirit is with us and Christ comes to us. We must learn to be aware of and to rejoice in their presence and their love.

### **Prayer**

Saviour Christ, thank you for the promise of your return – for the knowledge that, in the fullness of time, you will come again to establish your kingdom, and to welcome all your people, from every place and time, into the joy of your kingdom.

But thank you also that you have come again already – not just in the miracle of your resurrection, but in the equally miraculous gift of your Holy Spirit – dwelling within and making you known.

We thank you that, through that Spirit, you have touched our hearts and transformed our lives – enabling, inspiring, teaching, guiding and bringing faith to birth, sustaining it through the years. Open our hearts to the Spirit's work and make us wholly yours. Amen.

Dear Lord,

we bring into your love those who do not yet know you and your love – those who have turned away from you – those who struggle to accept you and those who refuse to listen.

Lord, we bring before you all those who need parental love – those who are alone – those who are abused and those who are neglected.

And we bring into your love those who seek the truth – those who work in the justice system – those who campaign and advocate on behalf of the voiceless.

May your love touch all these people and may it transform lives,

And may we show the power and presence of your love wherever we are and whatever we are doing – for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Holy Spirit,

Give us the strength to speak out when we see injustice,  
the courage to speak up for those denied a voice  
and hope that our words can make a difference.

Help us to witness to your love for the world. Amen.

### **Close:**

Go in the love and strength of God.

Cherish your relationships.

Build bridges wherever you are placed.

Speak words which encourage and inspire.

And know always that you are loved. Amen.

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