

23rd May 2021 - 10am service - Pentecost
Leader: Simone Royle; Speaker: Roger Homes

Transcript by YouTube [therefore not every word is correct!]

[Simone:]

morning roger

[Roger:]

good morning simone

morning and hi everyone who's joining us

morning brothers and sisters uh really lovely to to be here today on pentecost so it's wonderful um so just want to introduce roger rogers doing his talk to doing a talk today and i'm simone and i'll be leading the service so we're really excited to be here today and we'll we'll see you later roger for the talk

[Roger:]

have fun see you later

[Simone:]

okay so morning it's awesome that we'll be able to be back in the church next sunday amazing also a half term um we're super excited

just got a few notices to start about all of these and this return to the building

so we can go back don't forget that it is using the eventbrite tickets that be sent out the link for that if you're if you haven't got the link to the eventbrite tickets and you're you need to please email the church office email denise you'll be able to resend that link um so it's only adults that need to apply for that not children

but when we do go back into the hall um there are still some things that we need to take into account given covid restrictions there are still some in place so following guidelines in the government and the church of england

we will still have to wear face coverings when we return so can you just make sure those are the ones that i know you all know to cover your nose and your mouth um

the person who's leading worship can remove them or the person who's praying but it's just when we're face to face it's really important

and obviously hospitality is a big part of what we're about st john's at present however though we're asking that you bring your own refreshments again for covid reasons and we can eat those um outside the church building before or after the service

uh for the 10 a.m service in the morning we're encouraging people to come along at 9 30 to drink and socialize because it's been so long since we've seen each other and we know that that's something we're all very very much yearning for and so we're asking that you just go in the lawn areas there's a lot of lawn areas outside the front of the church building just to keep away from the cars especially if you've got children um running around

so we're still required to maintain social distancing so try and keep your two meters at all times and

if you stay closer within your household groups that'd be awesome

i know that we can't wait to be able to sing together and worship the lord with great loud voices and at present however we can only have music groups of up to six singers so this is not something at present the whole congregation can join in

we we look and look forward to that we'll just have to keep our really loud singing for home at the minute um

because of there's still test and trace going on so we'll have to there'll be a list of all those who are attending the services um so please continue to make sure that you sign in when you do arrive at church services

there will be access to the toilets um and there will also be some provision after the half-term holiday period for children who are coming along to church services as well um

toilets will be open and just be careful about washing your hands and that's it for all the keeping keeping us safe when we go back

but we can't wait to see everyone i can't wait to see people i just so excited about it

so we have quite a lot of um we have a few notices um one coming up from andrew and one coming up from from kim about what it would be like when we return to the church building but um these thoughts and these reflections have been come to us a lot of prayer so i'd like to just open now today's service with a prayer drawing us into the presence of of god as we look ahead to our time together as a church and then also listening to this this pentecost service
okay

mighty god heavenly father in heaven
thank you that we are able to be here together
virtually all across kenilworth in our separate homes
but together lord together as your children
in eager anticipation of all your your promises for our us
and also for the the word your word that we get to hear today
and for our time returning at together at st john's the the building itself lord
we praise your name and we thank you for this sunday morning
we thank you that we are able to communicate virtually
we thank you for your word and your truth
and we thank you for this fantastically exciting day that is pentecost lord

we're quiet now for a moment and we come into your presence
acknowledging your awesomeness
your tremendous your creation the universe and our place in it
that through your son jesus christ we are adopted as sons and daughters to you
how awesome father
in the silence of this moment we sing your praises
we give thanks for this day lord
thank you for sending your servant roger who's going to speak to us later about
pentecost and the holy spirit
thank you for him for his love for you and his love for for us his brothers and
sisters in christ lord
please fill him with your holy spirit
speak through him so that we can be edified and draw closer to you and better be
able to go out as your servants into the community doing your work this week
and we thank you for all the opportunities that lie ahead with that this week
we praise your name mighty god
in jesus name amen

so we're now gonna have a couple of announcements from uh
first of all we're gonna have one from andrew about our return to the church
building
and that will follow on um to a video from our church warden kin which is his
reflections on returning to the church building next week

[Andrew:]

so what is this season of prayer all about
i want to begin with two questions
how soft is your heart before god
and how thirsty are you for god
the pandemic was a compulsory pause for our church
we had to stop doing things that expressed who we are
and though we've moved online it wasn't the same
i think during the pandemic god seems to have been loosening up the well-
established ways of church
simply by having us stop everything that was familiar
it's a bit like loosening the tent pegs and ropes that define our shape and form
now positively this has created space for us to seriously rethink what our
priorities and opportunities might be as a church
this moment is the blank sheet of paper that we want everyone to embrace as we
head into a number of weeks praying together on sundays
now the timing is important if ever there was a moment to reimagine what god is
asking us to do this is it
but being open to the loving guidance of god will require soft hearts and a
determination to pray more than before

a determination to listen to god more than before
are you willing to have a go at that
inevitably on sundays things will feel different at first
we will need you to be patient and willing to wait
waiting on god will be a very important part of what we do together on sundays
just like the disciples ahead of pentecost
waiting is going to be key and as part
of this season we want every single person to sign up to a retreat in daily life
for six weeks
where you commit to daily prayer for 20 to 30 minutes and once a week also to
meet with a prayer partner to review what you are learning and encouraging each
other to continue in your praying
do contact denise at the office to say that you want to join in with this and
the organizers will pair you up with someone who would be a good fit for you
this season of prayer is a time to offer ourselves in a fresh way to almighty
god to become more open to him so that he can fashion us as individuals and as a
church
however he chooses for the sake of the kingdom so during this season take hold
of this opportunity
join with us in devoted praying both as individuals and as we gather on sundays
this could well be a defining moment in the story of saint john's so make sure
that you are an active part of this
so once again are you thirsty for god
my prayer is that through this season of prayer we will become more thirsty more
soft-hearted before god
thank you for listening

[Kim:]

hello as we head into this season of prayer i wanted to share a few of my
thoughts with you
i'm really encouraged to be part of this with other people
i've been feeling for some time that god's been calling me back to prayer in a
more committed way
but i wonder how you're feeling as we head back to the 10 a.m at warwick road in
a very different format
i'm reminded of when we were on holiday in snowdonia a few years ago and went on
one of those zip fire experiences stood at the top of on a platform being
buckled in to the zip wire
excited afraid knowing that it would be exhilarating once we'd stepped off the
edge but having to trust that we would be safe in the harness
i think it's a bit like that now we have to trust god we have to trust that he
wants what is the best for us
i have a feeling this time maybe a bit uncomfortable at times and we may be
changed uh individually and maybe together but at the other end i hope that we
will have a clearer view together of what the next step is for us for a
community
of of jesus followers you know in our 10 a.m warwick road community and i'm
really looking forward to being part of that with you and really looking forward
to seeing you all as well
thanks

[Simone:]

thank you kim and thank you andrew
so last week michelle and andrew um talked about the waiting the waiting of
pentecost
and michelle did this little activity where it was very distracting we had to
try and guess when two minutes have gone by
to come into the place of pentecost and to reflect on it is helpful to be
considering all that waiting so we're going to do a little bit of an activity
now for this activity you'll need a sheet of paper a pen a tea bag
now ideally this tea bag um well absolutely actually you can do this after as an
experiment it doesn't have to be now if you don't want to but it kind of has to
be one of the posture tea bags
you know these ones that have the fold over and i will explain why in a minute

when you see why why we're using it
in addition to that you'll need something to empty all the tea bag leaves out
into could be anything
i've just got a plate here and some matches or i'm a science teacher so i always
carry a lighter and very useful there
so with this activity i want us thinking about the waiting in the book of acts
chapter 2 it's saying the day of pentecost is seven weeks after jesus
resurrection and prior to that we keep hearing the the disciples
they're praying they're fasting they're in an upper room they're praying
they're fasting for seven weeks
that's a long time having just seen um the son of god ascend and know that
something's coming and i wonder what it must have felt like for them

so i'd like for the start of this activity asked us to consider all that was
being felt in those seven weeks of waiting and fasting and praying and just
write down your ideas on a sheet of paper
and i'm going to have an undefined moment of of quiet whilst you write the
reason

it's undefined is because when it comes to spiritual waiting or or waiting on
well it feels like waiting on god waiting to hear from god or just waiting it's
very much part of our christian journey we don't know how long we're waiting for

so on a sheets of paper just reflect what must that wait have felt like in that
upper room as they fasted as they prayed following the ascension of jesus to the
day of pentecost

[1 minute 13 seconds pause]

so clearly i'm not very good at waiting because already that's felt like quite a
while and i've just had a few of my thoughts
i wonder what some of yours are so thinking of what it must have been like for
the disciples in this time
did that come up with mirror writing on this i don't know
so i said um scary perhaps for them
maybe they were just totally bored some hopeful restless
maybe thinking oh i need to go do this at home um sleepy peaceful anxious
maybe they were just so excited absolutely filled of faith and extremely excited
some of them there were 120 that are referred to so that's a lot of people
probably all of them experienced some more of the emotions that we've written
down here at different times
but it would have been quite intense

so for the activity that i wanted us doing today
i want us to take our sheet of paper and place it on the table if i can show
this just like that okay
what you're going to do is you're going to take your tea bag now and oh sorry
did i say a pair of scissors i'm sorry if not okay you're going to need to get
some scissors and cut the top of your um tea bag so it's sliced off
and then you can fold it out it's going to have all the tea leaves in there
you're now going to empty these tea leaves out so all my tea leaves have come
out into my plate here they've just all come down and so i'm going to have a
tube now of very thin paper
i'm going to cut both ends because they're going to have to stand on one of
these ends and this is just a activity to symbolize what it must have been like
for the disciples for all these people as they're waiting for what this this
promise of the holy spirit is being given to them by jesus what it must have
been like
um for them
so i would like you to on top of all the thoughts and the concerns uh that you
wrote down that the disciples might have had could you try and place your tea
bag on top
i'm going to try and pull this away so you can see it better
and what you're going to do is this is the disciples here in the waiting room
you're now going to light the tea bag and this is symbolic of the holy spirit

coming

i'm going to do this now if it doesn't work there'll be a short video um that's going to show this working
and as you see that um i would like to contemplate it as we enter into our worship
so we'll have two songs of worship
and then we're gonna have a reading by adam
so you just need to light this
oh that's actually touching my ceiling
okay so that is it working we'll just have it replayed once in a in a video
now followed by worship and a reading from adam after which roger will begin his talk so i'll hand over

[Music: Days of Elijah]

[Adam:]

the first reading is from acts 2 verses 1 to 4.
when the day of pentecost came they were all together in one place
suddenly a sound like the blowing of a white 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

[Roger:]

thank you very much adam and uh good morning everybody and uh wasn't that an amazing experiment there by simone

i've divided up today's talk into three parts because it's quite a long passage but i thought i'd start by asking you a question
and the question is have you ever seen witnessed or been part of a miracle
and i suppose that you know in a sense you could say that that life itself is a miracle
i don't know whatever you've witnessed um the birth of a new baby but it's quite miraculous
i think many of us would say that actually us coming to faith is a miracle uh where god took us from where we were to where we are now
i guess what i'm thinking of is what we might brand signs and wonders
that's really what i'm thinking of
and i'm not just giving share with you a couple of examples from my life of a couple of what i would call signs and wonders
i'm sure you've got plenty of other examples
and the first one i remember is when i was praying for somebody and i think they dislocated their shoulder or they dumped some quite serious damage to their shoulder and they're in quite a lot of pain
and i laid my hand on their shoulder and it's the only time this has happened but i felt my hand get really really hot
and i remember saying to the person um can you feel that heat because i can feel my hand burning up
and he said yeah i can feel that heat coming through you and into my into my hand into my shoulder
and actually his shoulder was healed
and the other one i remember that comes to mind is when um i was in a meeting and they decided they're going to pray for somebody's leg to grow i think they had a few issues with one leg being bigger than another one
and i thought okay they're gonna pray for this person's leg i want to make sure that i've got a ringside seat i'm not having anybody tell me that this has happened and we not see it with my own eyes
i suppose in that sense i'm a little bit like a thomas
i don't like people telling me stuff secondhand i want to see it myself
so i've got a ringside seat and i just stared at this guy's leg and it didn't look like it grew
and so i not you know still not content with that

the person's sister came in a bit later on
she hadn't been at the meeting and i said to her does he look like he's grown a
little bit because just been praying for him and she said yes he does

i'm gonna come back to that those thoughts about signs and wonders a little bit
later on uh in my talk
the first four verses that adam wrote to us are about the holy spirit coming in
uh tongues of fire
and it's interesting isn't it i think tongues has been very very contentious uh
in the church over the years um
and so i've used a book to help me uh prepare for this first bit
hopefully you can see that on the screen
it's called systematic theology by wayne gruden
i would like to say that i've read it all but it is quite thick
but he devotes quite a few pages to this topic of tongues and so i thought i
would try and address that a little bit uh now
so the disciples if you remember in acts 1 were told to remain in jerusalem
until the holy spirit came and andrew spoke about that last week
fire is mentioned in verse three
we've already seen an experiment uh with that today and that reminds us of god's
presence with his people during the exodus
if you remember they had a pillar of cloud by day and a one of fire by night to
guide them
and i think this symbolizes that now god's power was resting on his new temple
which of course is his people
and the believers as we've just read begin to speak in tongues
and i'm not sure what your experience or belief is regarding tongues and gifts
of the holy spirit
i know some christians believe that in fact all of that died out with the early
apostles
so i thought i'll just go through very briefly
my experience of speaking in tongues
i remember at the time um i was at university and i went along to a quite a
small baptist church
and i began hearing about this being filled with the spirit and speaking in
tongues
must confess um i didn't really understand it and there was nothing coming from
the front and inevitably uh if you don't get any teaching on something from the
front and you're intrigued by something you're going to try and research
yourself and that's what i did
and i remember getting to a point where i just got very frustrated and i thought
to myself i can't carry on like this either this is real or it's not real and i
need to find out i can't just stay in limbo
and i remember grabbing a couple of friends of mine and i said to them you know
would you please pray for me that i know i can receive this gift
and so they did that they laid hands on me and prayed for me and they said well
you need to open your mouth now
and i remember doing that and this this language just poured out of me
and i remember laughing quite uncontrollably for a while
i think it was a sense of relief and also of release
i think it's fair to say that tongues has divided the church at least in the
past anyway and almost like there seemed to be a phase where um they were like a
hierarchy of like spirit-filled christians and so-called ordinary christians
whatever that may be
and i think that's absolutely wrong um
i think all of us all of us every single day need to pray for god's holy spirit
to fill us and to carry on filling us
interestingly all the believers spoke in tongues in acts 2.
i'm not so sure that's necessarily always the case though
and interestingly paul in 1 corinthians 12 and verse 30 says do all speak with
tongues
and it's almost as though um just the same as not everyone is the teacher nor is
everyone an apostle nor should we expect everybody to speak in tongues
so how do i use my gift then for me i tend to use it to help boost my prayer

life

i'm afraid i'm one of those people that when i start praying after a while my mind goes blank and i just think what else do i need to be praying for i'm sure there's something else but it's gone out of my head and so what i do is i start praying in tongues and it's almost as though rather than praying with my mind i'm actually praying with my spirit one corinthians 14 and verse 14 says if i pray in a tongue my spirit prays and my mind is unfruitful you may also have been in a meeting where in fact a member of the congregation brings a tongue and this should always be interpreted and i guess the whole point of what i'm trying to say about tongues and the gifts of the spirit is it's there to encourage the church all of us i think don't we in our christian walk we need some encouragement from time to time gifts of the spirit are there to encourage us

heather now is going to bring our second reading

[Heather:]

the reading today is from acts 2 14-41

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 fellow israelites listen to this jesus of nazareth was a man accredited by god to you by miracles wonders and signs which god did among you through him as you yourselves know this man was handed over to you by god's deliberate plan and foreknowledge and you with the help of wicked men put him to death by nailing him to the cross but god raised him from the dead freeing him from the agony of death because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him david said about him i saw the lord always before me because he is at my right hand i will not be shaken therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices my body also will rest in hope because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead you will not let your holy one see decay you have made known to me the paths of life you will fill me with joy in your presence fellow israelites i can tell you confidently that the patriarch david died and was buried and his tomb is here to this day but he was a prophet and knew that god had promised him an oath and he would place one of his descendants on his throne seeing what was to come he spoke of the resurrection of the messiah and he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead nor did his body see decay god has raised this jesus to life and we are all witnesses of it exalted to the right hand of god he has received from the father the promised holy spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear for david did not ascend to heaven and yet he said the lord said to my lord sit at my right hand until i make your

enemies a footstool for your feet
therefore let all israel be assured of this god has made this jesus whom you
crucified both lord and messiah
when the people heard this they were cut to the heart and said to peter and the
other apostles brothers what shall we do
peter replied repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of jesus for
the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the holy spirit
the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off for all
whom the lord our god will call
with many other words he warned them and he pleaded with them save yourselves
from this corrupt generation
those who accepted his message were baptized and about 3 000 were added to their
number that day

[Roger:]

thank you very much heather

so this passage uh is really the start of the new testament church as its
message is catapulted to the world
pentecost happens 50 days after passover and jewish people from all over the
world would have been pouring into jerusalem
so it was an ideal opportunity really to get the message out
before the holy spirit came the believers were hidden away as we've already
heard in the upper room probably confused i suspect trying to make sense of what
had actually gone on with the crucifixion the resurrection and now this promise
of the holy spirit
and now we see them full of confidence proclaiming the message in public and it
fell to peter as the leader to explain what was going on
notice that he didn't have very much time to prepare and often that's the case
with us that often we will be uh forced to give an account or get an opportunity
to give an account of our belief and the way that it affects us without
necessarily having much time to prepare
we notice that some people didn't even bother to investigate they just decided
that these people were drunk and left them to it
and i suppose that no matter what we say there will always be some people who
will not be uh willing to listen to what we have to say
peter quotes joel describing how the old testament prophecy is fulfilled through
jesus and how the messianic age starts with the outpouring of the holy spirit
and with signs on the earth and in the heavens
and it's a fantastic sermon
if ever you have to write a sermon a talk then this is a good place to start
because there's so much in it and i'll just go through briefly some of the
things that peter talks about

there's an explanation of what was happening with the believers first of all
with the tongues and that outpouring of the holy spirit is an explanation of how
jesus fulfilled old testament prophecy
there's a link back to david where god promised david that one of his
descendants would sit on the throne
jesus of course was a descendant of david but the throne that he sits on is
different from the one the jews were expecting
there's discussion about the death and resurrection of jesus and the lordship of
christ
we're told that jesus there is the only means by which we can be saved
and then this is also mentions the need for people to repent of sin and i guess
these days talking about sin is not very fashionable
we tend to talk about the loving nature of god our heavenly father and that's
obviously important to talk about that
but i don't know about for you but for me the way i came to christ started with
a conviction of sin
that's how it all began that's how my journey started
and notice the result of this talk it says that people were cut to the heart and
that day 3 000 people were added to the church
that's not bad for a church of 120.

i wonder whether you like me sometimes feel powerless powerless against the way society seems to be heading powerless about the decline in moral standards powerless against the need to or pressure to conform
jesus said in acts 1 verse 8 you will receive power when the holy spirit comes and you will be my witnesses in jerusalem and in all judea and samaria

our final reading now is from adam again

[Adam:]

the last reading is taken from acts 2 verses 42 to 47
they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to the fellowship to the breaking of bread and and to prayer
everyone was filled with awe and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles
all the believers were together and had everything in common
selling their possessions and goods they gave to anyone as he had need
every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts
they broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts
praising god and enjoying the favor of all the people
and the lord added to their number daily those who were being saved

[Roger:]

thank you again adam
so call my last bit um the attractive church and just wondered what would your ideal church look like
maybe you've got in mind a particular style of worship or maybe a type of preaching
maybe you've got an idea of the sort of size that the church should be um maybe the sort of people that would be bet would be there perhaps similar to yourself perhaps in terms of age or outlook
it's often said isn't it that if we were to find the ideal and perfect church then we shouldn't join it
and we see here how the early church devoted themselves to the apostles teaching to fellowship with each other which included practically meeting each other's needs to prayer and to evangelism
and i want to show emphasize here that the uh they talked here about the corporate was very much the corporate that was being stressed here rather than the individual
now weekly have been scattered uh during the pandemic we've had to worship to a large extent uh individually but i would say that the church becomes powerful when it moves together with a common purpose
and one of satan's tactics is to divide the church and we must not let that happen
notice that there are many signs and wonders it says coming back to what i asked you right at the beginning unlike the odd occurrence that i would have been able to talk about in my life
if you read a little bit further on in acts it talks about how people brought the sick out of their homes so that when peter walked along his shadow might go over them and they might be healed
such was the presence of god on them and you can read about that in acts five and then finally we're told in verse 47 that daily daily people were being saved and added to this church such as the attractiveness of it and the conviction of the holy spirit in people's lives
this wouldn't that be wonderful and also a challenge for us and john's if that was our experience

so finally to conclude then i'm going to say a little bit about the future of the church

as we've said already uh today today many of us are praying and trying to listen to god about the type of church he wants for us after lockdown
just wonder what god has been saying to you uh over this period of time and i look forward to be able to to hear what god's been saying to you
acts 2 provides us with a model of what church should look like and i guess it's

easy for us to become rather despondent when we compare our own lives with those of the early believers
but remember of course that these were the early disciples who had abandoned jesus at the cross and before the resurrection were quivering upstairs in the upper room locked away from the authorities
jesus showed his devotion to them by showing himself to them after his death and resurrection and by god sending his holy spirit
and it's the experience of pentecost that gave the early believers the power and the confidence to live the way they did and to see the world transformed

that power is still available to us today if only we ask for it and have the confidence to use it
known as the apostle started by waiting on god in the upper room and that's what this season of prayer is all about waiting for god to move

i'm just going to finish now with a word of prayer and then we'll go back to simone so let's pray

well god this chapter is a challenge to us as we see the tenacity of the early believers their fearlessness to proclaim the gospel in the face of criticism and many of them of course suffered and even died for their beliefs
you'll be afraid that you would pour out your holy spirit on us today that we may be built up in faith and have the confidence to be able to explain the faith that we have in you
we pray this now in the name of jesus christ our lord
amen

so i hope that's been helpful and i look forward to being able to see a number of you uh in face face at least in the coming weeks
thank you very much and god bless

[Simone:]

thank you roger there's a lot to think about there

we're now going to come into a time of um prayer and and worship reflecting on all that's being said so will you please please join me as we um come to the lord and pray

heavenly father mighty god
thank you that we can come to you on our knees and that we can come into your presence
let us all now be in your presence
thank you for this gift
this gift of your son and the holy spirit
father please fill us with your spirit now
thank you for all the encouragement that dwelling in your presence with your spirit brings to us
individually and as a church as a whole
we give you mighty praise and through your spirit sing it more boldly sing your praise everlasting saying pray to you of always
thank you that whilst you have convicted us in the past of our sin and even now you also through this same spirit reveal your crucified reveal your son who was crucified as lord and messiah
we are saved and we rejoice now in being in your presence this presence that we can come into
heavenly father in heaven we come together as as as your children and in unity through your spirit let us pray together and learn how to pray better
through your spirit may there be signs and wonders and you increase our number that many join our number
use us lord
help us to hear you
thank you heavenly father
let our hearts now sing in your spirit in jesus name
amen

[Music: Holy Spirit by Bryan and Katie Torwalt]

[Simone:]

thank you
we're now going to time of intercessory prayer and which will be followed by our finishing song

mighty god thank you that we can be here with you
thank you that our world as broken as it is
we are not powerless we can come to you in prayer
and that when we pray jesus is there interceding as well
so father we look out across the world and we want to give you praise through the heartache
especially as we look to gaza and the israeli-palestinian conflict
last week we prayed we prayed that there would be peace there'd be some ceasefire
so many lives have been lost in this conflict and it's a tragedy
so lord we praise your name for the ceasefire that's now
we pray for your continued intervention and in this that leaders would seek peace on all sides

father we pray not only for healing between countries and between israel and palestine but of individuals also that you suffer in the hearts of individuals who will be grieving so much and there must be so much anger
lord we pray that you just um reach to that situation
and you put peace in the hearts of these people in the midst of that conflict
lord
we pray for your peace that surpasses all understanding in this moment lord

father thank you also that we are coming to the end of this long um time of not being able to see properly thank you for those of us that have been able to hug family members this week we've not been able to it's so joyful and and just the most wonderful thing to be able to wrap our arms around those that we love
and i know that we're still supposed to have caution and we are but we thank you for this time

and we thank you also that um these year 11s and these year 13s that have been doing their exams have most places they're coming to the end or they have in fact even finished these internal assessments that are determining their grades as they go forward lord
so we pray also that you give these young people peace they have really had a tough time of it not knowing how and what the plan is ahead for for their grading and they've had up and down time with their exams um and studies
so lord as they come to the end of this lord we pray that you bless these young people the year 11s and the year 13s as they um find freedom in going out and meeting up
and we can see them out and about often in groups lord so we pray now for for your peace with them that they can go out safely and yes that they can be joyful and young and and celebrate but also that they can be safe that there'd be no further spread of this covid um in the uk and across the world lord that this indian variant not be a cause for concern globally that it just um get less and less
and we pray again for india we pray that in india um all this heartache that they're going through the the lack of oxygen and the huge number of cases we pray for relief for them lord god we pray for relief worldwide from this covert and we thank you for positive news we thank you for the scientists who have worked so hard to to make these vaccines and we thank you that it it seems that these vaccines still work against even the the um indian variant so we pray lord that as a country as the uk that we might be generous with our science our technology and our medicine and we thank you for the generosity that's already been shown but we pray that we just don't hold back

we give you thanks for this country in which we live and we pray that we can
share wherever possible so we pray we pray for the world lord in this time

and we give you mighty thanks for all that you see and all that you do in our
lives and the lives of people we do not even know
we give you thanks we give you praise in jesus name
amen

we now have a closing song

[Music: Great Are You Lord]

[That was a YouTube transcript with line breaks inserted by Hamish Blair]