**Blackburn’s Chapel Home Worship**

**Week of 5/11/2020**

**Gathering prayer –** Faithful God, you draw near to us in our joy and in our grief, in our hope and in our despair. When we are bowed down, you raise us anew. We turn to you now in search of your healing touch.

God of compassion and love, move among us this hour. Open our eyes, dispel our fears, and show us the real life you have to offer. We pray this in the name of the Risen One, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

**Scripture – Acts 17:22-31**

**Reflection Questions**

1. This passage reminds of a quote I read from Francis Chan as he responded to someone who claimed the “spiritual, not religious” mantle. Chan replied, “Well, that’s not saying much. Satan’s spiritual, after all.” Paul is saying that, while worship of other gods **is** religious, we as Christians are called to put away all things not of Christ. Was there a time in your life when you identified with the “spiritual, not religious” idea? What’s wrong with calling yourself spiritual and not claiming a specific religious identity?
2. At the same time, Christians are called to live and act and worship in the world (not separated from it). What are some of the difficulties of living your life as a follower of Christ faithfully, with both compassion and conviction?

**Scripture – John 14:15-21**

**Reflection**

1. Jesus promises the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, in the passage. In what ways have you experienced the fullness of the Holy Spirit in the last few days or weeks?
2. These words of hope are some of the more important of the Gospel message of Christ, sent as the Son of God. Jesus tells us he will not “leave us as orphans” and will be with us always and everywhere. Think back to a time when you felt lost or hopeless. Would hearing these words given you hope? How can this passage be a part of your testimony today?

**Worship in Song**

Josh Garrels – “Pilot Me”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WcLuUt-dyks>

**Closing prayer – A Collect for the mission of the church from the BCP, p. 257.**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you, bring the nations into your fold, pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.