

Virtual Church 11th April 2021
2nd of Easter Year B

**God, three in one, unite us today
so that we may share all that we have and are
as the community of the Spirit in the power of the resurrection. Amen**

Sing, read or listen to : StF 295 Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord
<https://youtu.be/2U1MuOCHon4>

We worship you, God.
You are the creator.
You bind together this wonderful world.

You bind us together.

We worship you, God.
Your energy flows through creation.
We marvel at the vastness of the universe.

You bind us together.

We worship you, God.
You created this world and gave us life.
We thrill to respond to the knowledge that you share it with us.

You bind us together.

We worship you, God.
We marvel most of all at your love in sending your Son.
We celebrate his risen life together.

You bind us together

(Jarvis & Pickering 2005)

Read: Acts 4: 32-35

Sing, read or listen to : StF 696 For the healing of the nations - noting the words in verse 1 –
“for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords.”

<https://youtu.be/RFTBGKkv6M>

Read: John 20: 19-31

In this passage Jesus says to the disciples “peace be with you” three times. Was this a simple greeting? Shalom? Jesus does not, on this occasion tell them not to be afraid. Is peace the same as lack of fear? What does peace mean to you? Is it a lack of noise, bustle or anxiety? Does peace have a positive quality like joy or love?

The hymn StF 719 is a poignant prayer for peace

1 We pray for peace,
But not the easy peace,
Built on complacency
And not the truth of God.
We pray for real peace,

The peace God's love alone can seal.

- 2 We pray for peace,
 But not the cruel peace,
 Leaving God's poor bereft
 And dying in distress,
 We pray for real peace,
 Enriching all the human race.
- 3 We pray for peace,
 And not the evil peace,
 Defending unjust laws
 And nursing prejudice,
 But for the real peace
 Of justice, mercy, truth and love.
- 4 We pray for peace:
 Holy communion
 With Christ our risen Lord
 And every living thing;
 God's will fulfilled on earth
 And all creation reconciled.
- 5 We pray for peace,
 And for the sake of peace,
 Look to the risen Christ
 Who gives the grace we need,
 To serve the cause of peace
 And make our own self-sacrifice.
- 6 God, give us peace:
 If you withdraw your love,
 There is no peace for us
 Nor any hope of it.
 With you to lead us on,
 Through death or tumult, peace will come.

Alan Gaunt (born 1935)

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The Chinese characters for peace translate directly “when all mouths have food”. Does this help us widen our understanding of the peace of God? This ties in so well to our first Bible reading from Acts where we find the believers all sharing everything they have. No one is in want or need. We often tend to think in terms of money when we talk about sharing resources but in reality our part in the blessing of the world is much greater than simply

financial sharing. We are called to be part of the renewing of the earth. We must live more simply so that others can simply live. No part of our lives is outside this consideration. How much electricity we waste; what food we throw away; single-use plastic in our lifestyle; using fossil fuels; standing up to injustice; these are all markers of our belief in a creation that is meant for the peace of all God's people.

The Global Village

A Summary of the World

Earth as a village of 100 people.

Almost everybody likes the term Global Village ([L.](#)). The term is readily used today especially by writers, broadcasters, politicians and public relation guys, to emphasize the shrinking distances between nations through internet, mobile phones, and cheap flight tickets, as well as the fact that news are traveling with the speed of light around the globe, and they unlikely forget to mention the possibilities of producing and selling "worldwide", speak, making business/money globally.

So, but what does it really look like, our much acclaimed Global Village?

If we could shrink the Earth's population of 7 billion to a village of precisely 100 people, with all existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look like this: (have in mind, that each of the villagers represents a population of 70 million, that's more than the whole population of France)

So, let's have a look at our International Community.

First the good news: half of the villagers would be female, the other half would be male.

The village would consist of 61 people from [Asia](#), of whom 19 would be from [China](#), and almost 18 would be Indians (the Gandhi type of Indians, people from [India](#)), there are 15 people from [Africa](#), 10 guys from [Europe](#), not quite 9 would be from [South America and the Caribbean](#), and 5 from [North America](#) and somewhere among the Americans would be the world's most powerful man, the U.S. president.

Their native [language](#) would be:

12 are speaking Mandarin Chinese, 5 would speak Spanish, 5 would speak English, 5 would speak Hindi or Bengali, 3 would speak Arabic, more than 2 speak Portuguese, 2 speak Russian, 2 speak Japanese, and 1 speaks German, the rest of the villagers can choose one or the other of the 6000 languages spoken on the planet.

33 would have a Christian background, 22 an Islamic one, almost 14 are Hindus, there are 7 Buddhists, and 2 are atheists.

26 would be under 14 years old.
8 are 65 years and over.

82 would be from less developed countries with an average income of US\$ 5,440 in a year, this is the equivalent disposable income of just \$15 a day, but 51 of those would live on less than \$2 a day.

18 would be from developed countries with an average income of US\$ 32,470 in a year, the equivalent disposable income of \$90 a day.

51 of our village people live in areas termed "urban". Would our little village be in a more

developed surrounding actually 75 villagers would live in [big cities](#). The number of people living in urban areas has surpassed the population of rural areas approximately in the year 2005.

Half of the entire population on Earth, they all have lost an important connection to the cosmos, because of light pollution in and around large cities, there are only the brightest stars like Deneb, Vega or Altair to be seen, if any. No more milky way, no more real night-sky, no more awe-inspiring perception of the multidimensional aspects of a starry sky. The poor villagers are abandoned with a surrogate of the on and off of lights of houses, enterprises, advertisements, emergency vehicles, traffic lights and TV shows.

60 would live within 100 km (62 miles) of a coastline. About 50 would rely in some manner on coastal and marine habitats for food, building sites, transportation, recreation, and waste disposal.

65 would live in countries where overweight and obesity kills more people than underweight. (Source: [WHO](#))

Half of the villagers would distrust their government ([III.](#))
No wonder, that the governments mistrust their people.

40 would lack access to basic sanitation and 13 would lack access to safe drinking water.

The village's population would use 77 mobile phones, but they are unequally distributed, some of the villagers would have 2 or more cell phones, other none.

33 would be Internet users, 15 would have Internet access from home and 12 would be active users of Facebook ([II.](#)).

25 would live in substandard housing or have no home at all.

22 would be overweight ([VI.](#)).

13 would suffer from malnutrition. ([VII.](#)).

10 would have no job. Villagers with a job would work in agriculture: 36, industry: 21, and services: 43.

The villagers would have 11 cars or light trucks.

10 would live in least developed countries.

7 would be unable to read and write (age 15 and over).
7 would have a college education.

At least 5 would be part of the gay community (nowadays also abbreviated to LGBT or even LGBTQ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Queer, and Transgender) ([VIII.](#)).

3 would be migrants
Includes migrant workers, internally displaced persons, and refugees ([IX.](#)).

1 has visited this website you're looking at.
More than 112 million people have visited Nations Online Project since it came into existence in 1998.

1 would have HIV/AIDS (that still means that 70 million! people on Earth are infected).

The richest 1 in our village actually owns 40% of the entire wealth. Europe, the US and some Asia Pacific nations account for most of the extremely wealthy. More than a third live in the US. Japan accounts for 27% of the total, the UK for 6% and France for 5%. [\(X.\)](#)

Half of the entire village's wealth would be in the hands of only 6 people, and most of them would be citizens of the United States.

So not everything in our little village is looking good, its citizens are responsible for the rapid depletion of non-renewable mineral resources and the depletion of forest areas and wetlands. Only some of the townsfolk worry about the extinction of animal and plant species, and the deterioration in air and water quality.

According to a serious source they all will live for 67.59 years.

When one considers our world from such an incredibly compressed perspective, the need for cooperation, tolerance and understanding becomes glaringly apparent.

One World - Nations Online ∴ let's care for [this planet](#)

Let us pray:

**Creator God,
we pray for the world
on days when it is hard to believe that
 the hungry will be fed,
 there will be justice and freedom,
 and that wars will cease.**

**We pray for the world
on days when we cannot see you within it.
We pray for faith: *may your peace be with us.***

**Saviour God,
we pray for humankind
on days in which it is hard to believe that
 love is stronger than hatred,
 the sick will be made well,
 and that death has been destroyed.**

**We pray for humankind
on days when we cannot see you among us.
We pray for faith: *may your peace be with us.***

**Spirit of God,
we pray for the church**

on days in which it is hard to believe that
we have a message for the world,
our unity is greater than our division,
and that we will ever serve you as we should.

We pray for the church
on days when we cannot see you at work within it.
We pray for faith: *may your peace be with us.*

Jesus said, 'Be unbelieving no longer, but believe.'
We pray to you because we have faith
in the love made known to us
in the life, death and resurrection of your Son
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen (Odell 1998)

Sing, read or listen to : StF 51 Great is thy faithfulness <https://youtu.be/r4ox4es1jo8>

Blessing : <https://youtu.be/JPq19uL5WQU>