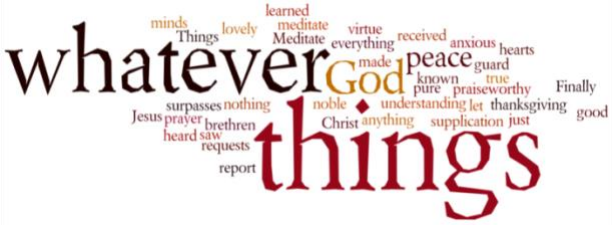

THINK ON THESE THINGS….. (our contributor this morning is Brian Eyles)

Reading: Acts 2: 1,4,9 -12

When the Day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place....They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.....'We are from Parthia, Media, and Elam, from Mespotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia: from Pontus and Asia, from Phrygia and Pamphylia, from Egypt and the regions of Libya near Cyrene. Some of us are from Rome'.

Reflection:

Arriving in Jerusalem, all those people from far away places were not 'foreigners', nor tourists, no holiday makers … They were 'family': ex patriot Jews from all over the Roman Empire. They were the beginnings of a new idea of community. That Pentecost the Holy Spirit began the work of expanding awareness into a community of faith. St. Paul went on to insist that Gentiles did not need to be circumcised. Around AD 313 the Emperor Constantine decreed the whole Empire was the Christian Community. Now in 2020 it seems to me the Holy Spirit is pressing us to believe in a Global Community.

All the World's people are suffering a Pandemic. News flies around our world and we know about the suffering of Uyghur Muslims in China, about the tragic Pandemic explosion in Brazil. We are told about the melting ice caps and the world wide CO2 emissions. Whether we like it or not it seems the Holy Spirit is telling us to work together to discover a Covid 19 vaccine, to compete together without cheating, to trust one another in our trading, respect one another's faiths, and accept all complexions, and colours of our skins.

The Bible tells us that Adam and Eve were the forerunners of humanity, not just of the Hebrews, and certainly not the British. When the Pandemic is over the world will be thrown into a turmoil and we will have to be resolute in the face of people who breed hatred, and fear, and suspicion, and distrust, and prejudice; people who do not want a Global Community.

Breath Prayer for today:

Holy Spirit unite us with the mind and heart of Christ that we may share in His compassion and His hope for the welfare of all humanity.