



Pentecost : 23rd May

Take some time to be still, perhaps light a candle and offer your own prayer to God. You may find the following words helpful.

Father God, we come to you this morning knowing that you are with us. We know you are watching over us and filling our hearts with your Holy Spirit. Help us to understand more of you, to grow in your likeness and to make a fresh start with you today and every day.

Amen

Hymn 419: Shine, Jesus, shine

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: the first commandment is this: 'Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength'. The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen, Lord have mercy

Welcome

The Lord be with you,
and also with you

Alleluia. Christ is risen

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession:

What God has prepared for those who love him, he has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the

Spirit searches everything. Therefore, let us in penitence and faith open our hearts to the Lord, who has prepared good things for those who love him.

1 Corinthians 2. 9,10

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal through Jesus Christ our lord. **Amen**

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Collect for this morning:

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

New Testament Reading: Acts 2. 1-21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a 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^[a] as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: 'Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs – we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!' Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, 'What does this mean?'

Some, however, made fun of them and said, 'They have had too much wine.'

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.”

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hymn 615: Spirit of the living God

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

'I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?" But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon: Revd Petra Shakeshaft

Pentecost

the festival of harvest, the offering of first fruits;

the gathering and gratitude of the people moving towards the Temple where their God abides.

But now, **this** Pentecost, the words of ancient prophecy stir and whisper on the wind.

I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below.

And the unknowing people *are* the harvest; ripe and ready for offering.

In this room - the Spirit comes, hurling from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind
and tongues of fire.

God is in this place.

In this room, His presence is known

for, from the beginning, that same wind of God, the Spirit, Ancient Ruach
hovered and breathed over the waters of creation;

breathed order into chaos, breathed life, created out of nothing through the Word.

The same breath that feeds the fire; that cleanses as it burns;

consuming the dross, refining, leaving just pure, shining beauty;

the fire of I Am calling Moses from the burning bush.

The fire of judgement not condemnation.

The fire of Love.

God is in this place.

*I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.*

This is the Spirit of truth of whom Jesus spoke;

who will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement:

The Spirit exposes the world, sheds light on its dark corners,
blows aside the veil across their minds, revealing truth; all truth.

And so they are snatched from their weariness and crowned with the fire of His Love,

Love that is a Word, Love, stronger than death,

Love an Action; Love that needs no language, no tongue
yet has all languages; all tongues.

So filled, intoxicated with this knowledge,

they pour from the room and out to gather in the harvest.

People of Judea, listen! People of the world, listen!

The Spirit of Truth from the Father
promised at that last gathering together, has come.
It was not what they imagined it might be
for the Spirit is far beyond the limitations of human imagination.

The Holy Spirit defies definition;
we must rely on metaphor, simile, comparison.
The Holy Spirit *overshadows* Mary, *descends* like a dove,
comes like wind and fire, *is* Love Divine, *is* the Spirit of Truth; strengthens, inspires, reveals
The Spirit is the lens through which we see the world with a new clarity;
the Divine Love and Compassion through which we weep for the pain of others,
through which we rage at injustice,
through which our tongues are set on fire to speak and to transform;
through which we love and through which we act.

The ever-present Spirit stirs in us that creative restlessness that effects change;
we ignore it at our peril and at the world's peril.

We have lived through an extraordinary year or so of Pandemic, war and revelations of corruption
and still, there is no peace inside the walls of Jerusalem.

It may well feel like *portents in the heaven and signs on the earth*

Small things and great are subject to human exploitation, and greed.
Our tongues are needed now, and our Acts, our visions, our dreams and prophecy –
our silence on these matters is not an option.
But, whatever our language, whatever our tongue, let us speak the language of the Spirit,
let us speak Love.
Love is the first fruit we offer to God. This is the harvest.

Affirming our Faith: The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate of the Virgin

Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers

Let us pray...

The Peace:

Take a moment and offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God for each other and our church family church community. Maybe call or text someone who would enjoy sharing the peace with you.

God has made us one in Christ.

He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

Alleluia.

2 Corinthians 1.22

Hymn 666: The Spirit lives to set us free

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours.
Now and for ever.
Amen.

Hymn 117: Come, Holy Ghost

Remembering the Lord's Supper:

Take a moment to remember the final meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. As we think about this meal- with the washing of feet and bread and wine shared with friends- we remember Jesus' offering of himself on the cross. We rejoice in his resurrection from the dead and look forward to the coming of God's Kingdom. While we cannot receive Christ in the sacraments in the usual way, we can be the presence of Christ in our homes and communities and we can be a praying presence wherever we are.

Hymn 551: O worship the King

Closing Prayer:

Lord God, we thank you for this time of worship; may your love and peace remain with us in the coming days. Be with us in all that we will think, say and do so that our lives may reflect your glory. We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ, Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God, Alleluia, alleluia.

