



The Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday) 8th June 2025

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

HYMN

1 O Breath of life, come sweeping through us,
revive your church with life and power;
O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, renew us,
and fit your church to meet this hour.

3 O Breath of love, come breathe within us,
renewing thought and will and heart;
come, Love of Christ, afresh to win us,
revive your church in every part.

2 O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,
till humbly we confess our need;
then in your tenderness remake us,
revive, restore, for this we plead.

4 O Heart of Christ, once broken for us,
'tis there we find our strength and rest;
our broken, contrite hearts now solace,
and let your waiting church be blest.

5 Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating
while harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,
equip your church to spread the light.

Confession

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us.

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us.

Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect

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 the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

A reading from the New Testament Acts 2 1-21

The Coming of the Holy Spirit



² When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ 'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that 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.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;

and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104

²⁴ O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵ Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.

²⁶ There go the ships,
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

²⁷ These all look to you
to give them their food in due season;
²⁸ when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

²⁹ When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.

³⁰ When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.

³¹ May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works—

³² who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.

³³ I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.

³⁵ Let sinners be consumed from the earth,
and let the wicked be no more.

Bless the LORD, O my soul.

Praise the LORD!



A Reading from the New Testament Romans 8. 14-17

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' 16 it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

HYMN

1. O thou who camest from above
the fire celestial to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart!

2. There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise

3.. Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work, and speak, and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up thy gift in me

4. Ready for all thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat;
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete

The Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (John 14. 8-17; 25-27)

Glory to you O Lord

8 Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' 9 Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. 12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

15 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. 17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

25 'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

This the gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth...And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters...

We live in a Spirit filled universe - from the word GO! Think of the Big Bang – or something similar, – not just as a cosmic event of astronomical proportions, but embedded with the seeds of the Divine from the moment of its inception.

This is good news indeed. It means our world and all that is created is infused and enmeshed with God's glory. From slugs to whales, star nebulae to neutrinos. Speaking of which I have a fondness for neutrinos – they buzz around the place at amazing speeds and pass through us all the time, slipping through you and me and on to Australia or somewhere. It is estimated that one will collide with an atom in our bodies 5092 times in our lifetimes – approximately once a week – not that we would notice.

And yet the wonderful truth, indeed a wonder provoking truth, is that God's spirit is present in all of this, pervading every part. So why did God's Spirit come particularly to the church at Pentecost?

John Wesley's spells this out in his hymn *'O Thou who camest from above'* Just as the Spirit seeded life in creation, so the Spirit brings new life to people. Sometimes it is like a big bang of realisation, other times it is the accumulation little nudges like neutrinos. Why? So that we can respond allowing the innate warmth and love to flow back and forth helping us *'to work and speak and think for thee'*.

This is good news! The temptation is to see this world as overwhelmed with awfulness and indeed there is much. Again, and again, we see war and suffering, most of this of our own making. Global Covid brought us low and the overarching narrative of climate change hangs over us all...yet we plant trees. The *'pure celestial fire'* imparts hope, it rekindles desire and vision.

St John tells us (Jn 1) that there the *'light that lightens every man that cometh into the world'*. We have a choice; we can believe this or turn from it into an empty and dark night. If we choose to believe then we see our world as 'seeded' with the Spirit of the divine. We take this on board and cherish this thought so *'that it burns with inextinguishable blaze'*, we face life with courage and determination to do and be the best we can.

There will be times when we feel that this flame of God has been smothered by 'life' or we have quenched it by our own, and the world's, greed, cruelty, selfishness and evil. But over and beyond this is the truth that Jesus speaks about; the Spirit is the source of truth NOW. No one is beyond the reach neither is it ever too late to respond to this loving Spirit who always seeks the stifled flame of love in us, to fan it into life.

We must not read the account in Acts as a strange one-off movement of the Spirit of God. They didn't. They understood the Spirit to be that of Jesus, present with them each and equally from then onwards.

We are in a relationship with God; we are never alone. The Spirit is our Advocate, literally one called alongside to help us. The Spirit supports our feeble prayers, praying together with us. The Spirit warms our hearts by the continual nudges of hope and love that we experience. This Pentecost Sunday, let us each find a moment to pause and read the words of Wesley's hymn above as our prayer.

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.

We pray for God to fill us with his Spirit.

Generous God,
we thank you for the *power* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better.
Lord, come to bless us
We thank you for the *wisdom* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to make us wise to understand your will.
Lord, come to bless us
We thank you for the *peace* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to keep us confident of your love wherever you call us.
Lord, come to bless us
We thank you for the *healing* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness
where there is division, sickness and sorrow.
Lord, come to bless us
We thank you for the *gifts* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to equip us for the work which you have given us.
Lord, come to bless us
We thank you for the *fruit* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to reveal in our lives the love of Jesus.
Lord, come to bless us
We thank you for the *breath* of your Holy Spirit,
given us by the risen Lord.
We ask you to keep the whole Church, living and departed,
in the joy of eternal life.
Lord, come to bless us

Faithful God,
who fulfilled the promises of Easter
by sending us your Holy Spirit
and opening to every race and nation
the way of life eternal:
open our lips by your Spirit,
that every tongue may tell of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

As our Saviour taught us, we are bold to say:

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.

The Blessing

May the Spirit,
who hovered over the waters when the world was created,
breathe into you the life he gives.

Amen.

May the Spirit,
who overshadowed the Virgin when the eternal Son came among us,
make you joyful in the service of the Lord.

Amen.

May the Spirit,
who set the Church on fire upon the Day of Pentecost,
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.

Amen.

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us now and always.

HYMN

1 Come down, O love divine, seek Thou this soul
of mine,
And visit it with Thine own ardour glowing.
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart
appear,
And kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.

2 O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let Thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path
illuminating

3 Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler
part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with
loathing.

4 And so the yearning strong, with which the
soul will long,
Shall far out-pass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace, till he become the
place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes His dwelling.