

Sunday Worship at Home



Sunday 31st May 2020

The Day of Pentecost



Preparation

A prayer activity sheet is included in this order of service. You may choose to complete it during the service or at a later date.

There is a separate hymn sheet with the words of the hymns being used today, that you can read.

The full service has also been produced as a pre-recorded service and can be viewed from YouTube – please follow the link below:

<https://youtu.be/yD-0ncDSAa8>

Hymn 1 – Here I am to Worship

Opening Prayer

In the beginning the Spirit brooded time into being:

So that God could give form to the world.

At the Incarnation the Spirit breathed God's time into being:

So that the world could receive the Word.

Through Pentecost the Spirit brought transformed time into being:

So that the Word could be everywhere encountered.

Amen

Saying Sorry

Take a moment to sit quietly and think of the areas in your life this week where you have had thoughts that you ought not to have or acted in a way that did not show Christ.

To you, Lord, all hearts are open.

Forgive our secret sins

Forgive our habitual sins;

Our sins of thought, word and deed,

All that we have left undone;

Our sins against ourselves,

Our sins against others,

Our sins against you,

**All where we have fallen short of your Glory
And not done what you have called us to do.**

Amen.

Prayer for the Day

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

First Reading

Acts 2:1-21

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. **2** Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. **4** They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

5 There were Jews living in Jerusalem, religious people who had come from every country in the world. **6** When they heard this noise, a large crowd gathered. They were all excited, because all of them heard the believers talking in their own languages. **7** In amazement and wonder they exclaimed, "These people who are talking like this are Galileans! **8** How is it, then, that all of us hear them speaking in our own native languages? **9** We are from Parthia, Media, and Elam; from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia; from Pontus and Asia, **10** from Phrygia and Pamphylia, from Egypt and the regions of Libya near Cyrene. Some of us are from Rome, **11** both Jews and Gentiles converted to Judaism, and some of us are from Crete and Arabia—yet all of us hear them speaking in our own languages about the great things that God has done!" **12** Amazed and confused, they kept asking each other, "What does this mean?" **13** But others made fun of the believers, saying, "These people are drunk!"

Peter's Message

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the other eleven apostles and in a loud voice began to speak to the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, listen to me and let me tell you what this means. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose; it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ Instead, this is what the prophet Joel spoke about:

¹⁷ 'This is what I will do in the last days, God says:

I will pour out my Spirit on everyone.
Your sons and daughters will proclaim my message;

your young men will see visions,
and your old men will have dreams.

¹⁸ Yes, even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will proclaim my message.

¹⁹ I will perform miracles in the sky above
and wonders on the earth below.

There will be blood, fire, and thick smoke;

²⁰ the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will turn red as blood,
before the great and glorious Day of the Lord comes.

²¹ And then, whoever calls out to the Lord for help will be saved.'

Gospel Reading

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

John 20:19-23

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Hymn 2 – Breathe on me, Breath of God

Pentecost Reflection by Bishop Viv, Bishop of Bristol

It is very good to be with you, at least virtually. I am so sorry that what should have been a visit to mark a new beginning for Lydiard Tregoze has had to be postponed after so much hard work. So today the focus is elsewhere on this great festival. For years I have delighted to preach of Pentecost as liberation day, the day when the people of God were freed to be the people and community God longed for them to be.

For years I have preached about the disciples bursting out of the house where the disciples were gathered. In the book of the Acts the description of the giving of the Holy Spirit is over in four verses, and Peter's sermon takes the whole of the rest of the chapter. I will not be as lengthy as that! The first four verses are full of vivid details: the wild wind rocking the whole house, the tongues of flame, and strange speech. But we are not allowed to dwell on them. We don't even hear how the disciples got out of the house and in to the crowd, but suddenly that's where they are.

For years I have preached from the book of the Acts and the bursting of the barriers of culture. Whether this is a miracle of ecstatic prayer, or something more familiar, people communicated with one another. Strangers, foreigners, outsiders, a crowd of many different races and nations gathered in Jerusalem, that cross-roads city. And they heard Galileans, not noted for their educational achievements, speak out in their own languages. In the power of the Spirit the believers were able to break through the barriers of culture, announce the good news, and were heard.

For years I have preached of how the giving of the spirit broke through the physical constraints of buildings, the cultural constraints of language. And so Peter found himself outside, preaching. And his excitement and joy bubble through his speech. The immediate effect of the gift of the Spirit is to make him wildly generous.

He longs to share what has now become clear to him. He looks to the crowd around him and he knows that he is responsible for them. he must, he absolutely must, make it clear to them what God is offering through faith in Jesus Christ.

For years I have preached of the same dynamic being at work in the verses from John's gospel. The spirit is given, and immediately the disciples are impelled to go out and take responsibility for the world. Their mission is to offer judgement, but also forgiveness. This group, which had betrayed their leader and locked themselves into an upper room on fear for their lives, is now impelled outwards, with a message that the constraints of the past are broken, that forgiveness is the first fruit of the spirit.

For years I have preached about the discomfort of that experience, of the disturbance of the Holy Spirit's power with its accounts of fervent disciples, large polyglot crowds, noise, confusion, rushing winds and tongues of fire is somehow too elemental, too raw for us to capture it in art, or contain it in our minds or memories.

For years I have preached of the ways in which we, if we take the accounts seriously will be deeply discomforted by those extraordinary events fifty days after Easter, in which profound constraints are broken, ancient myths exploded and a new era dawns. That day began an era of profound risk, and danger but also of opportunity and creativity and newness.

And now I am confronted with the reality of my preaching. This Pentecost I preach to a church which has wonderfully burst through the boundaries of its buildings, has been impelled to communicate in new ways. I preach to a church whose members have been impelled to go out from the safety of lockdown to care for the sick, to feed the hungry, to shield those in danger.

And I preach to a church which cannot gather physically at all, where we cannot break bread together or baptise new believers, where we cannot hold the hands of the dying and sing

Psalms of lament, where we cannot cuddle our grandchildren and sing songs of thanksgiving. So I preach at a time when, with the old ways gone, there is deep uncertainty, vulnerability and rawness, along with a newness which has surprised us all.

So what next? There have been reports that the Bishops are considering structural changes to dioceses, and a cull of bishops. In fact the bishops have been concerned with something very different (in addition to speaking out for honesty and fairness in national life). We have been drawn to the need to attend to what the Holy Spirit is doing to us, to listen, as St Benedict would urge us to do, to listen each other, to the people of our dioceses.

There have been two simple images from conversations with Bishops in recent days which have stayed me. Both are stories from the Celtic tradition which these islands on the edge of the sea still hold dear. Images which should have resonance for this cathedral with its sailing ship masthead. The first image is of a man named Dove, the image of the Holy Spirit, Colm Cille, Columba, who set sail with a group of followers of Jesus from the place we now know as Ireland, travelling across the sea until, looking back, the little community could no longer see their homeland.

Their home was not, with all its familiarity, behind them but, in all its strangeness, ahead of them. Iona, where they settled, would become a place where many encountered God, and the deep prayerfulness and simplicity of their life would guard the fire and wind of Christ for all our Islands in very difficult times. I have been pondering therefore what will enable us to leave behind what lies behind and reach out to what lies ahead in a town facing economic challenge, in a nation no longer sure of itself, in a world with COVID 19.

The second image from the same tradition is from the Cornish Celtic saints who, it is said (at least by their Bishop), set out from their home ports without oars, dependent on the wind of the spirit to direct them. My mariner engineer grandfather would have thought those saints barmy to sail without oars and a rudder, and maybe they were.

But they were also signposts to newness and I have been pondering how the wind of the spirit is blowing us.

I have been pondering how I am being transformed, how the church is changing, where this diocese is being blown. I will say more in the weeks ahead, and it has been good to hear already from parishes of how much has already been discovered.

I hope you, too, will ponder those images of our deeply faithful forbears on their precarious journeys. Soon we will have to describe our new homeland, and explain how the spirit has changed us for good. I know that there will be a great temptation to take back control, to expend energy on organisational structures and strategies and plans. Those will have their place. But on this day our calling is to remain in the discomfiting company of the Holy Spirit, to give thanks that what held us back has gone, and to accept God's empowering, disturbing gift of that rushing mighty liberating wind.

+Viv

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in a loving God,
whose Word sustains our lives
and the work of our hands in the world.
GOD IS LIFE.**

**We believe in God's Son amongst us,
sowing the seed of life's renewal.
He lived with the poor
to show the meaning of love.
JESUS CHRIST IS LORD.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit of Life,
making us one with God,
renewing our strength with Her own.
THE SPIRIT IS LOVE.**

John Harvey

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray

Almighty God, who to an expectant and united church granted at Pentecost the gift of the Holy Spirit:

give us, your church here in Swindon,
your church across this nation, and around the world the help of the same Spirit
in all our life and worship
that we may expect great things from you
and attempt great things for you,
and show the world your Son and our saviour
Jesus Christ;

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honour
and glory,
now and forever

(Adapted from Frank Colquhoun – Parish Prayers)

Responsory

Holy Spirit, be present in this time with your church

Touch and transform us through your gifts.

A prayer for the world

God of love and hope,

you made the world and care for all creation,
but the world feels strange right now.

The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.

Some people are worried that they might get ill.

Others are anxious about their family and

friends. Be with them and help them to find

peace. We pray for the doctors, nurses and

scientists, and all who are working to discover

the right medicines to help those who are ill.

Thank you that even in these anxious times,
you are with us.

Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.

Amen.

Father of creation, we thank you for all that you
have made;

For the joy and glimpses of you we find in
nature's beauty,

For the variety of all you have provided through
its resources.

Help us to tread lightly and use wisely,

Valuing the needs of others, and of creation,
above our own desires.

Challenge us where we need to change our
lifestyles,

Convict us when we need to speak out on

behalf of a voiceless people, or world

And soften us where we have stood in

judgement of others.

Father in your mercy, change us and use us

For the restoration of your world, and the

protection of all your children. Amen.

Prayer Activity

You may choose to follow the prayer activity
instructions for Gayle's Holy Spirit pinwheel
here or at a separate time.

The Peace

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace.

If we live in the Spirit, let us walk in the Spirit.

cf Galatians 5.22,23

The peace of the Lord be always with you

Hymn 3 – The Colours of Day (Light up the Fire)

COMMUNION LITURGY

Invitation/Preparation (taken from Iona resource)

God has prepared a room for us:
fire to warm our hearts,
water to wash our weary feet,
the table set and waiting ...
And now, from beyond time,
the breath of the Spirit comes whispering
through the fabric of time to call us in.
So come ...
whether your time is just beginning
or many years in the marking;
whether your hours are filled and fruitful
or wanting and withered;
whether you have invested wisely
or buried your coins in the ground;
for here at this table, through the power of the
Spirit,
God's time and our time come together in bread
and wine –
a place of timeless and timely grace ...

Eucharistic Liturgy

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and everlasting God,
through Jesus Christ, your only Son our Lord.
This day we give you thanks
because in fulfilment of your promise
you pour out your Spirit upon us,
filling us with your gifts, leading us into all
truth,
and uniting peoples of many tongues in the
confession of one faith.

Your Spirit gives us grace to call you Father,
to proclaim your gospel to all nations
and to serve you as a royal priesthood.

Therefore we join our voices with angels and
archangels,
and with all those in whom the Spirit dwells,
to proclaim the glory of your name,
for ever praising you and *saying*:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of
the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear
Son.

On the night before he died he had supper
with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for
you;
do this in remembrance of me.
When supper was ended he took the cup of
wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them and
said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the
forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in
remembrance of me.
So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup
of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the
earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with our church partnership in
Toothill, Westlea, Shaw and St Mary's
and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
O loving Father,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The consecrated bread is broken.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Song for reflection – Holy Spirit inspire

again (NB – if following the YouTube video, there are no lyrics –
only an instrumental version)

A Prayer for an act of Spiritual Communion

(You may, if you wish, pray this prayer)

**My Jesus,
I believe that you are present
in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things
and I passionately desire to receive you
into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you
sacramentally,
come spiritually into my soul
so that I may unite myself wholly to you
now and forever.
Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

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.
All Amen.

Final Hymn – Build your Kingdom here

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.

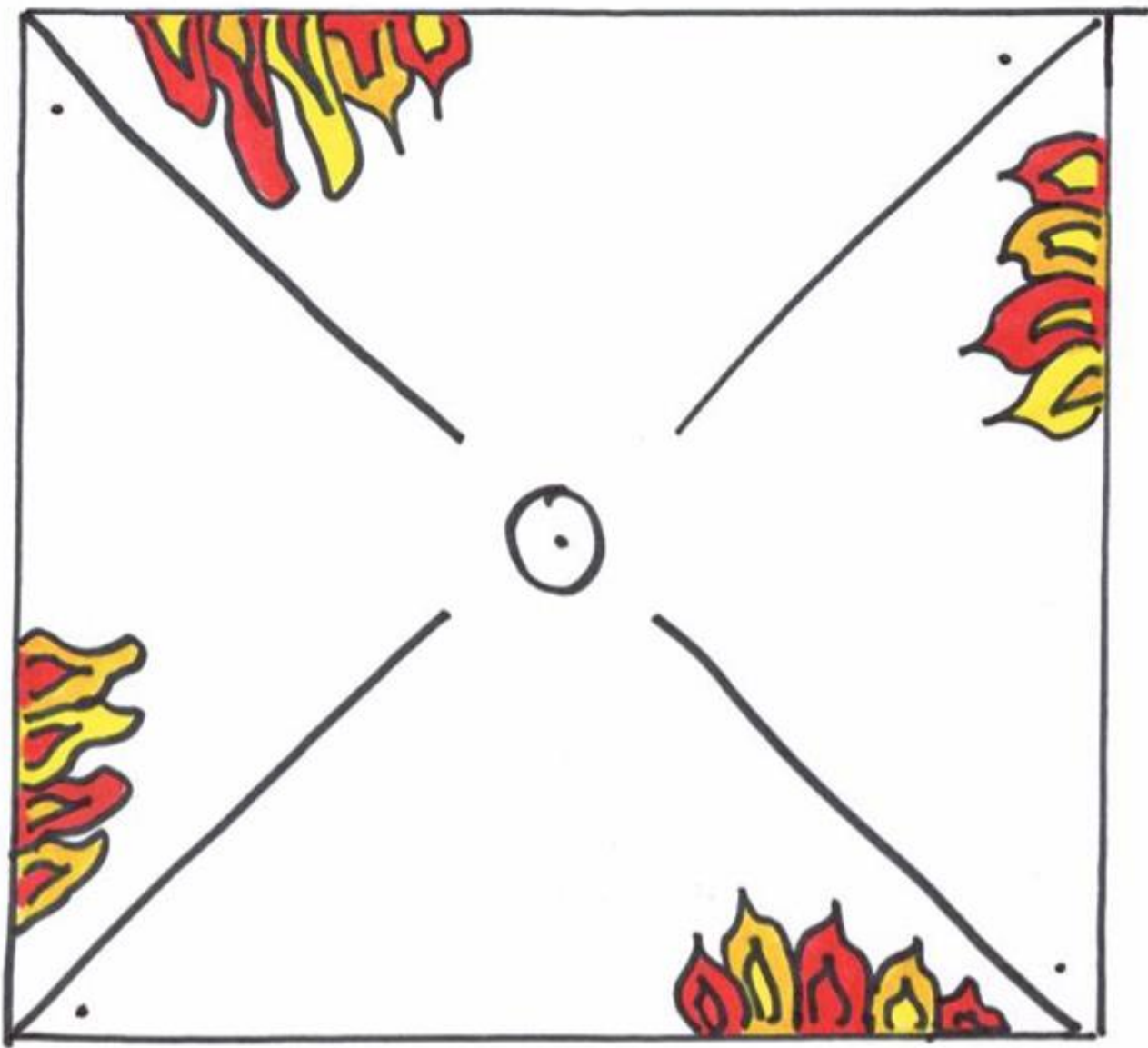
May the Spirit,
who set the Church on fire upon the Day of
Pentecost,
bring the world alive with the love of the risen
Christ.
Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Dismissal

**May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

**With grateful thanks for all those who
have contributed to our service today.**



Pentecost Pinwheel

for our interactive prayers on Pentecost Sunday

You will need:

You will need a twig

A drawing pin or small tac

A pair of scissors

glue

A copy of the pinwheel sail or a

square piece of paper

For children this will require adult supervision due to use of scissors and drawing pin.

(You can make it with a pipe cleaner instead of a twig and a drawing pin, but it doesn't spin as well).

