**Sunday 31st May 2020** WORSHIP AT HOME: **Pentecost Acts 2v1-21**

Welcome to our act of Worship for Whitsun

Preparing for Worship – *reflect on the following*

Come, Holy Spirit; fill us with your peace.
Come, Holy Spirit; unite us in our worship.
Come, Holy Spirit; raise us by your power.
Come, Holy Spirit, come now.

Call to worship

The Spirit of the Lord is with you:
**and also with you.**

Strengthening God, send forth your Spirit upon us:
**may your breath give us life.**

Welcoming God send forth your Spirit upon us:
**may we be able to welcome each other as brothers and sisters.**

Sending God, send forth your Spirit upon us:
**may we be one with you and with each other.**

Challenging God send forth your Spirit upon us:
**may we put down the barriers that separate us from you and each other.**

Healing God send forth your Spirit upon us:
**may we use our gifts to heal this broken world.**

Loving God send forth your Spirit upon us:
**may we sing your love forever.**

**HYMN**: Come down O love divine...

HP281, MP89, RS294, STF372

(Some of the hymn books widely used in the Wiltshire United Area)

*Prayers of Praise*

**Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you made them all.
When you send your Spirit, the earth is renewed.
When you open your hand,
it is filled with good things.
Lord, we rejoice and praise your holy name. Amen.** *Based on Psalm 104*

*Prayer of Confession*

Forgive us, merciful God,
for the barriers we build between ourselves

and you;
for the love we refuse to show;

the apathy and indifference.
Forgive us when we will not receive

your Spirit in fullest measure
and when we choose our way and not yours.
*(Silence)*

The Spirit brings peace; the Spirit brings love.
We are forgiven; we are made new.
**Amen**.

**HYMN** Spirit of God, unseen as the wind

HP-, MP-, RS- , STF394

**Reading: Acts 2v1-21**

*with special focus on verses 1-4*

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

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

There has been much this week spoken about the need for clear messages. At Pentecost there are many languages, but one message – God is doing something new and you can be included.

Some languages use the same word for ‘tongue’ and for ‘language’ in French it is the word ‘langue’. Tongues and languages are inextricably linked on that first Pentecost. And let us be crystal clear on this message, Pentecost is no past occurrence but a daily living experience in the life of those who seek to follow Christ. As we continue with lockdown, with church buildings remaining closed, with so much still unreal and strangeness, how much do we need to be reminded that God is with us - in and through and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit has been described in many ways:
refreshing cold water to a parched throat.
a potter who takes clay and shapes it into something beautiful.
a gentle tap on the shoulder that makes us realise, things need to be different
a fierce shake that wakes us up; reminding us that there is more to life than say materialism or money.

In the here and now of where we find ourselves the images of the Holy Spirit that I find most attractive are:

a loving spouse whispering into an ear reassurance of love and support,
a parent guiding and helping a confused child.

The Holy Spirit revitalises, guides, empowers, comforts, and creates, but above all is presence. So whenever we are feeling weary of lockdown, or rather defeated by these strange times let us remember the crystal clear message of Pentecost: This is the day that the longed for Holy Spirit arrived and this is the same Spirit of God that is with us today and will guide us through. May that message fill us with hope, with joy, with expectation. God is with us, Alleluia! Amen

Prayer of Response

God of Pentecost,
pour out your spirit of healing into the wounded places of my heart,
pour out your spirit of encouragement into the defeated places,
pour out your spirit of grace into the bitter places,
pour out your spirit of compassion into the hardened places,
pour out your spirit of energy into the tired places,
pour out your spirit of Pentecost
into all the places of my heart that need refreshing,
and empower me to serve you, and to inspire others. **Amen.**

**HYMN** The Spirit lives to set us free

HP, MP251, RS, STF

Our Prayers of Concern

**God of wind and dove and fire,**speak freedom, peace and change
over lands divided by war and by creed.

**God of wind and dove and fire,**speak refreshment, assurance, and warmth
over lives afflicted by exhaustion and illness.

**God of wind and dove and fire,**Speak integrity, humility, and challenge
over churches crippled by fear and finances.

**God of wind and dove and fire,**Speak calm, gentleness, and comfort
over lives broken by grief and loss.

**God of wind and dove and fire,**Speak power, anointing and healing over
each one of us,
that there may be new beginnings,
and a catalyst for change.

**Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**HYMN** Go forth and tell!

HP770, MP178, RS574, STF

A prayer of blessing

Flame-dancing Spirit, come,
sweep us off our feet and
dance us through our days.
Surprise us with your rhythms,
dare us to try new steps, explore
new patterns and new partnerships.
Release us from old routines,
to swing in abandoned joy
and fearful adventure.
And in the intervals,
rest us,
in your still centre. **Amen.**

*(Published in*Watching for the Kingfisher*, Ann Lewin, Inspire 2004)*

Rev David Coppard Superintendent @ Wiltshire United Area

Bank Chaplain @ Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton

***Our churches may not be open, but the Church is alive.***

*This is service is offered to any and all, with love and prayers.*

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**ACTS 2 v 1-21 The Coming of the Holy Spirit**

**When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4All 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. 6And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7Amazed and astonished, they asked, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.’ 12All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ 13But 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. 15Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. 16No, 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.”**

A prayer for all ages together

Come, Holy Spirit,
ONE FINGER POINTING UPWARDS.
make us one.
JOIN HANDS.
Come, Holy Spirit,
ONE FINGER POINTING UPWARDS.
give us your gifts.
OPEN HANDS TO RECEIVE.
Come, Holy Spirit,
ONE FINGER POINTING UPWARDS.
hear our prayers,
PUT HANDS TOGETHER.
now and for ever.
ROLL HANDS OVER EACH OTHER.
**Amen.**
PUT HANDS TOGETHER.

A reflective way into prayer

Sit very still and become aware of your breathing.
As you breathe in, think of God.
As you breathe out, think of the world.
*Repeat this at least three times.*

As you breathe in now, give thanks for the peace the Spirit brings.
As you breathe out, pray for peace in the world.
*Repeat this at least three times.*

As you breathe in, receive from God what he has for you.
As you breathe out, ask what you should do.
*Repeat this at least three times.*

*Keep a few moments of quiet and conclude*:
Come, Holy Spirit, come now.
**Amen.**

**---**

**Come down, O love divine, *(Tune Down Ampney)***

Come down, O love divine,

seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, til 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 illuming.

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.

And so the yearning strong,

with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace,

till they become the place
where-in the Holy Spirit finds a dwelling.

**Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,**

***(Tune Skye Boat song)***

***Refrain:***

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove;
teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour's love!

You spoke to us long, long ago,
gave us the written word;
we read it still, needing its truth
through it God's voice is heard.

***Refrain:***

Without your help we fail our Lord,
we cannot live His way;
we need Your power, we need Your strength,
following Christ each day.

***Refrain:***

**The Spirit lives to set us free,** ***(Tune same name)***
The Spirit lives to set us free,

walk, walk in the light.
He binds us all in unity,
walk, walk in the light.

***Refrain***

*Walk in the light,
walk in the light,
walk in the light,
walk in the light of the Lord*

Jesus promised life to all,
walk, walk in the light.
The dead were wakened by his call,
walk, walk in the light.

***Refrain***

He died in pain on Calvary,
walk, walk in the light,
to save the lost like you and me,
walk, walk in the light.

***Refrain***

We know his death was not the end,
walk, walk in the light.
He gave his Spirit to be our friend,
walk, walk in the light.

***Refrain***

By Jesus’ love our wounds are healed,
walk, walk in the light.
The Father’s kindness is revealed,
walk, walk in the light.

***Refrain***

The Spirit lives in you and me,
walk, walk in the light.
His light will shine for all to see,
walk, walk in the light.

***Refrain***

**Go forth and tell! O church of God, awake!
*(Tune: Yanworth)***

Go forth and tell! O church of God, awake!
God's saving news to all the nations take;
proclaim Christ Jesus, saviour, Lord, and king,
that all the world his worthy praise may sing.

Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;
he will in grace respond to all who call:
how shall they call if they have never heard
the gracious invitation of his word?

Go forth and tell where still the darkness lies;
in wealth or want, the sinner surely dies:
give us, O Lord, concern of heart and mind,
a love like yours which cares for all mankind.

Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide:
share God's good gifts let no one be denied;
live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,
your ransomed powers for his sole glory use.

Go forth and tell! O church of God, arise!
go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;
go till all nations his great name adore
and serve him, Lord and king for evermore.

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