

Sunday 5 June 2022

Pentecost



Sermon © Rosie Kingham.

Liturgy and Prayers of intercession © 2000 The Archbishops' Council.

Bible readings © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration appear at the end.

The hymns are YouTube links. To hear the hymns please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,
<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

Introduction and welcome

HYMN 1 **Come down O Love divine** (traditional choral version)
Come down O Love divine (modern version)
Come down O Love divine (orchestral version)

or **Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire** (very traditional version)
Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire (modern take on traditional tune)
Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire (modern with different tune)

The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

All **And also with you.**

Jesus Christ, whom we worship, is our crucified, risen, and ascended Lord and we have been privileged to walk with him through his journey of love.

We have faced the agony of his suffering and death on a cross. We have rejoiced at his bursting free from the bonds of death. We have enjoyed his risen presence with us and his revelation of himself through the breaking of bread. We have seen his return to the throne before which every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that this Jesus is Lord.

And now, with the followers of his own time, we wait the coming of the promised Holy Spirit, his gift to his people, through whom we make Christ known to the world.

The Preparation

All **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.'

And 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.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

The Spirit of truth will convict the world of guilt about sin, righteousness and judgement. We have grieved the Holy Spirit. So we confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

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.

All Amen.

The Gloria

This version of the Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'.

All **Glory be to God in Heaven,
Songs of joy and peace we bring,
Thankful hearts and voices raising,
To creation's Lord we sing.
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,
Glory be to God our King:
Glory be to God our King.**

**Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,
Bore the load of this world's sin;
Only Son of God the Father,
You have brought us peace within.
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Now your glorious reign begin:
Now your glorious reign begin.**

**You O Son of God are Holy,
You we praise with one accord.
None in heav'n or earth is like you,
Only you are Christ the Lord.
With the Father and the Spirit,
Ever worshipped and adored:
Ever worshipped and adored.**

The Collect for Pentecost

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.

All **Amen.**

First reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place.

Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.'

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.' 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. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: "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. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved".'

Acts 2:1-21

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 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!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 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. *Romans 8:14-17*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 Breathe on me, breath of God ([click on this link to hear the hymn](#))
Breathe on me, breath of God (traditional version, different tune)
Breathe on me, breath of God (modern version)
Breathe on me, breath of God (different modern version)

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 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. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.' *John 14:15-21*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

One thing about the Acts reading that has never occurred to me to ask until now, is until now, is "Why were there so many people from different places in Jerusalem at the time, and why would anyone think someone might be drunk early in the morning?" But of course, Pentecost was a Jewish feast long before this, and indeed still is. It celebrates the wheat harvest and the offering to God of the fruits of that harvest. People would have come from far and wide to Jerusalem to celebrate, maybe camping outside the city overnight and there would have been a festive atmosphere with plenty of new wine flowing. Which explains why there were so

many people speaking so many different languages in Jerusalem and why early morning drunkenness was a possibility.

And into this excited and joyful gathering of people the Holy Spirit descends with tongues of flame and roaring wind. People speak in many different languages as they have done since the ill-fated building of the tower of Babel but now this is not the pride of humankind that divides, but the power of the Holy Spirit that unites, enfolding everyone in an overwhelming experience and showing them the power of God.

Pentecost is first of all a great breaking in. The Holy Spirit breaks into the room where the disciples were holed up—a mass of irresistible wind, and fire, and flame. Having broken in, it somehow inspires the disciples. And through the disciples, the Spirit breaks out into the open, spilling into the streets, through hearts now aflame with a fervent desire to talk of God. Suddenly, they were out in the streets talking of God's deeds of power. Suddenly, they were talking to people in many different languages. Suddenly, they were bold, assertive, confident in what they were doing.

They are eager to tell their wonderful story of the man Jesus, the one who was crucified, but who was raised from his death. This is the astounding power of God to change the reticent, confused group we find at the beginning of Acts to the inspired and inspiring group we find here. As the babbling, energised disciples take to the streets, so the story of our faith, the story of the church begins. The story breaks out from the private inner circle and erupts in the public square, ready to fly all over the world and down through the ages - to infinity and beyond, carried on the mighty rushing wind.

And this mighty rushing wind, that gives life to the church, is the breath of God. The church is the body of Christ, but without breath, a body is just a pile of bones—think of that vivid Old Testament story in the book of Ezekiel about the valley of dry bones, which as they are breathed upon become bodies, then stand up to become a mighty army, a powerful, united force for change. Without the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, the disciples, however much they believed in the saving power of God, were just a scared bunch of friends holed up in a small room.

The sad truth is, without the Holy Spirit, that's just what we are. We can be a body, with all the right bits, but without the breath of life in us which comes from the Spirit, we are as good as dead, ineffective, incapable. Just as we need to breathe physically to live physically, we need to breathe spiritually to live spiritually. So as a church, we, here, now, can choose: are we a valley of dry bones or a mighty force for change?

Do we let the Holy Spirit work in us so we can dream dreams of the impossible? And let it lead us to work towards a vision of how God would like our world to be?

Do we rely on the Holy Spirit to inspire us to minister to those around us and bring them the dreams and visions of the better world that God shows us in Jesus? Is the Holy Spirit firing the flames within us to change the world around us? Or are we stuck in our room like the disciples before the moment of Pentecost, struggling to work out where to go and where to turn?

It is true that sometimes it is hard for us to identify with the experience of those early disciples on the feast of Pentecost, because of events in the world or in our own lives, or our own temperament. Sometimes it's hard to imagine the joyful crowds of people, celebrations, wine, singing, tongues of fire, mighty winds, preaching in many languages and lives changes so dramatically. It might be easier for us to identify with the disciples sitting with Jesus in a quiet room somewhere while he talks to them, a small group, about the Spirit that will come to them when they no longer have him with them. Or we might long for a stronger sense of having an Advocate at our side, a helper to get us through tough times and a comforter for when our hearts are troubled and afraid, as Jesus promises in the Gospel.

The great thing about the Holy Spirit, as Jesus teaches in the Gospel, is that this is how he himself will remain with his present and future disciples **always**. This is how God will **always** stand alongside and within us teaching us how to stand alongside God, living as he wants us to live. So yes, a comforter and advocate – but most important, a mighty rushing wind, the breath of God, to keep our spiritual life, well, alive.

Like in Acts, our faith must break out to stay alive. We can survive without the Holy Spirit, but if we don't let it work through us, then spiritually we risk slowly dying. Our purpose is to help people to see our dreams and visions of God's kingdom and share their own. Dreams and visions of a radical way of being that can completely, systemically change our world for the better. In God's name, yes!

Today, of all days, is a day on which we can come together as church and ask for God to breathe on us afresh and fill us as with strength to live a healthy and sustainable spiritual life daily in relationship with our loving Father.

Come Holy Spirit, breathe life into your church today. Amen.

The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
the source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

Prayers of intercession

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

All and fill us with your Spirit.

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

All and fill us with your Spirit.

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

All and fill us with your Spirit.

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

All and fill us with your Spirit.

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

All and fill us with your Spirit.

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

All and fill us with your Spirit.

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

All and fill us with your Spirit.

Generous God,
you sent your Holy Spirit upon your Messiah at the river Jordan,
and upon the disciples in the upper room:

in your mercy fill us with your Spirit,

**All and fill us with your Spirit.
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever.
Amen.**

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The peace

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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

All And also with you. Alleluia!

HYMN 3 Spirit of the living God (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

The Dismissal

HYMN 4 [Veni sancta spiritus](#) (please click on this link to hear the hymn)
[Veni sancta spiritus](#) (Taizé version)
[Veni sancta spiritus](#) (contemporary choir)
[Veni sancta spiritus](#) (Gregorian version)

The Lord is here!

All **His Spirit is with us.**

Today we have remembered the coming of God's power on the disciples and we invite that same Spirit to drive us out into the wild places of the world.

For fifty days we have celebrated the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over the powers of sin and death. We have proclaimed God's mighty acts and we have prayed that the power that was at work when God raised Jesus from the dead might be at work in us.

Therefore, as part of God's Church here in Oldham, I call upon you to live out what you proclaim.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, will you dare to walk into God's future, trusting him to be your guide?

All **We will.**

Will you dare to embrace each other and grow together in love?

All **We will.**

Will you dare to share your riches in common and minister to each other in need?

All **We will.**

Will you dare to pray for each other until your hearts beat with the longings of God?

All **We will.**

Will you dare to carry the light of Christ into the world's dark places?

All **We will.**

Hymn 5 [Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire](#) (please click on the link)
[Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire](#) (solo, more modern version)

The blessing

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

All Amen

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

All 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.

All Amen

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

All Amen

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For he is our great high priest
who has entered once for all
into the heavenly sanctuary,
evermore to pour upon your Church
the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit.

He is the one who has gone before us,
who calls us to be united in prayer
as were his disciples in the upper room
while they awaited his promised gift,
the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost.

Therefore all creation yearns with eager longing
as angels and archangels sing the endless hymn of praise:

**All 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:

All 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 all the Spirit-filled 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.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
 because we all share in one bread.**

**All Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world,
 have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world,
 have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world,
 grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us.
Amen.

Communion is distributed.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
you have raised our humanity in Christ
and have fed us with the bread of heaven:
mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings,
we may set our hearts in the heavenly places;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.