

**Sunday 28 May 2023**

# Pentecost



**Sermon** © Revd Robin Wilding

**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 are included at the end.

The hymn can be accessed via a YouTube link. Please click on the links.

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 First Letter to the Corinthians

I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

*1 Corinthians 12:3b–13*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

<p><b>HYMN 2</b> <a href="#">Breathe on me, breath of God</a>  <a href="#">Breathe on me, breath of God</a>  <a href="#">Breathe on me, breath of God</a>  <a href="#">Breathe on me, breath of God</a></p>	<p>(click on this link to hear the hymn)          (traditional version, different tune)          (modern version)          (different modern version)</p>
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## Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**All Glory to you O Lord.**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

*John 20:19–23*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

Today we consider what Pentecost is about and its importance for us. The Spirit is the least celebrated and understood part of the Trinity in my opinion—we often mention him in passing while great and glorious things are spoken of Father and Son. Yet he is a precious and important part of who we are as the people of the risen Christ.

### What is the significance of the feast to the Jews of Jesus time?

We start with how the Jews of Jesus' day thought of it.

For them it had great significance for they celebrated on this day becoming God's chosen people, it's the day to celebrate the Giving of the Torah since it is seven weeks after the crossing of the Red Sea (the whole Passover and Exodus thingy) that they arrived at Mount Sinai and received the Law. At Sinai, God's presence is marked in fire and cloud—his majesty revealed. So it is seen as the Marriage Day between God and his people—a covenant is made between them sealed with the Gift of the Law. Interestingly the Book of Ruth is read, in which Ruth willingly accepts Jewish life and marries in to the community of God's people so full of themes of belonging and joining and becoming

### What happened to Jesus' followers on that first Pentecost?

From Luke's witness at the end of his gospel, we know that the disciples have been meeting in the Temple courts to worship and be involved. At 9:00 am on Pentecost morning, the place to be for all Jews in Jerusalem is the Temple where the first sacrifices of the feast are to be offered. I'm convinced this is where they are—and it makes the successful reaching of thousands of Jews all the easier as what happens next happens in full sight of everybody.

So what does happen? Hold on to your seats! God publicly makes for himself a new chosen people but instead of a new Torah (new rules to live by) he gives to them all the Spirit of God. Note the timings—seven weeks after the saving act of Jesus that rescues his people from sin and shame comes the giving of the Spirit on Mount Zion (the Temple Mount). Here God's presence is manifested in wind and fire paralleling Mount Sinai but this time welcomed with gladness and not fear. This is the Marriage Day of the new people of God—a new Covenant is made between them and God sealed with the gift of the Spirit. Note the Jewish habit of bride and bridegroom celebrating under a banner at their feast (seen on our trip to Israel still being practised, the Song of Songs phrase 'his banner over me is love' echoes this practise); and I can't help thinking of the flames of fire resting on the disciple as being God's banner over them. But there is more in the significance of the fire—

the 40-year journey of the Jews through Sinai is marked by God's presence leading his people—a pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night. And Peter points his hearer not to Ruth (though she is still relevant) but to the prophet Joel who proclaims the coming day when the Spirit of God will be for all the Covenant people not just the 'expert' or the leader—and Peter proclaims that that day has come.

### What about us, here and now?

We are the people of the New Covenant, the new relationship with God won for us by our amazing Saviour. We are the people of the Spirit not the Law, the people of Mt Zion not Mt Sinai. Our birth-right is the presence, the gifting, the filling of the Spirit—yet so often we make do with the old ways of focusing on our failures rather than on our Saviour, considering ourselves unworthy when his is worthy, and making do without tapping in to the resources God has given us by his Presence within.

Let us reclaim our birthright and live in the Spirit.

## 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,  
Lord, come to bless us

**All and fill us with your Spirit.**

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.**

**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, 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**  
**Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire**

(please click on the link)  
(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.