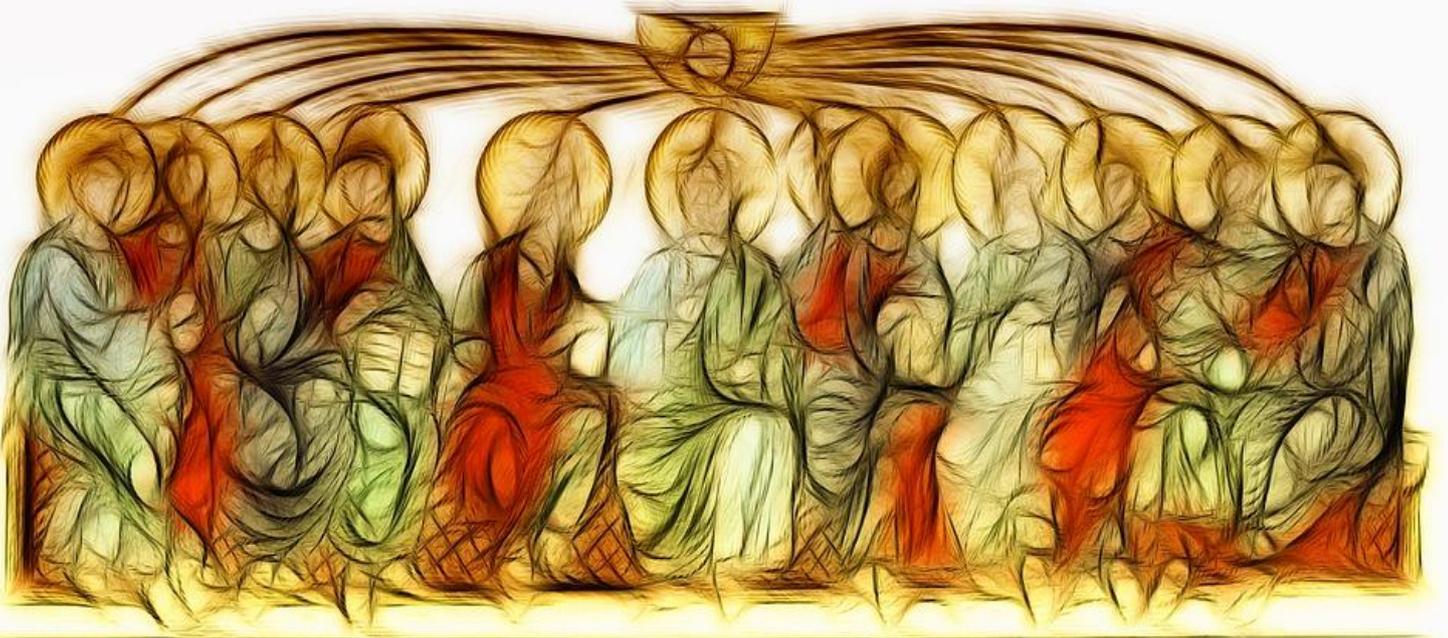


Sunday 5 June 2022

Pentecost

Worship for all generations



Sermon © Rosie Kingham.

Liturgy © 2000 The Archbishops' Council and Revd Dr Paul Monk.

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>

The 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)

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

All Amen

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

All And also with you.

O Lord open our lips:

All and our mouth shall proclaim your praise:

Let us worship the Lord:

All all praise to his name.

**All Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever.
Amen.**

Introduction

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.

Prayers of preparation and penitence

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins:

A fruit of the Spirit is love. For those times when we ignored the promptings of your Spirit to bring God into your world as love:

Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

A fruit of the Spirit is joy. For those times when we ignored the promptings of your Spirit to lift despair with that joy:

Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

A fruit of the Spirit is peace. For those times when we ignored the promptings of your Spirit to counteract anxiety and violence with that peace:

Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

A fruit of the Spirit is patience. For those times when we ignored the promptings of your Spirit to quell exasperation with that patience:

Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

A fruit of the Spirit is kindness. For those times when we ignored the promptings of your Spirit to oppose cruelty with that kindness:

Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

A fruit of the Spirit is goodness. For those times when we ignored the promptings of your Spirit to counter evil with that goodness:

Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive us our sins
and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

Praise and thanksgiving

We give thanks to God for all the wonderful gifts He pours down upon us and which we so often take for granted

**All Loving Lord, fill us with your life-giving,
joy-giving, peace-giving presence,
that we may praise you now with our lips
and all the day long with our lives,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

We thank God for the fruits of the Spirit—for love, joy, peace; patience, kindness, goodness; thankfulness, gentleness, and self-control—and all that transforms our lives into Christlikeness:

God in heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

We thank God for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we read His gift of the Holy Scriptures:

God in heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

We thank God that through His Spirit we are enabled to pray and recognise God as our heavenly parent:

God in heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

We thank God for the encouragement of His Holy Spirit as she directs our lives of holiness and gives us a foretaste of Heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

We thank God for leading of the Holy Spirit, showing us how to change the world:

God in heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

We thank God for those who, through lives were embedded in the Spirit, have helped us and inspired us:

God in heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

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)

Ministry of the Word

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 3 **Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire**
Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire

(please click on the link)
(solo, more 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.

The 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.

A Statement of Christian Belief

We stand to declare our faith:

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,

**All maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,

**All God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,**

begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

All Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

**All For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;

**All he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

All the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

All With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

All We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**All We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

The Prayers

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

**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.**

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 4 Veni sancta spiritus
Veni sancta spiritus**

**(please click on this link to hear the hymn)
(Taizé version)**

Veni sancta spiritus

Veni sancta spiritus

(contemporary choir)

(Gregorian version)

The conclusion and dismissal

All **Eternal God,
giver of love and life,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us
into all the world
to preach the gospel of the Kingdom.
Confirm us in his mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

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 us now and remain with us always.

All Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All In the name of Christ. Amen