



ST PAUL'S CHURCH
WINCHMORE HILL

A Service for Pentecost

Sunday 31 May 2020

This service, recorded in church and in people's home, will be available on our YouTube channel from Friday 29 May. It will also be available as a DVD – please telephone 020 8886 3545 if you would like a copy delivered.

Hymn: Come down, O love divine

Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
till 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 he become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Introduction

Dear friends, for fifty days we have been celebrating the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over the powers of sin and death. We have greeted with joy his resurrection from the dead, and his appearing to the disciples. We have rejoiced in his ascension into heaven, and his glory at the right hand of the Father. We have devoted ourselves to prayer with those who gathered in the Upper Room, awaiting the fulfilment of Christ's promises.

Today we celebrate the day of Pentecost, when God filled the apostles with the Holy Spirit, anointing them to preach the good news of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. Enflamed by the Spirit's power, their voices were set free to proclaim the mighty acts of God.

We give thanks for God's Holy Spirit, and we pray for a fresh outpouring of that Spirit on the Church today and for the power of the Spirit to be at work in each one of us.

Confession

As we come before God to hear his word and to pray in the name of Jesus, let us call to mind our sins, and seek his healing and reconciling love.

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Gloria in excelsis Deo

R: Gloria! Gloria! in excelsis Deo.

Gloria! Gloria! in excelsis Deo.

Lord God, heavenly King,
peace you bring to us;
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we sing our song of praise. *R:*

Jesus, Saviour of all,
Lord God, Lamb of God;
you take away our sins, O Lord,
have mercy on us all. *R:*

At the Father's right hand,
Lord, receive our prayer,
for you alone are the Holy One,
and you alone are Lord. *R:*

Glory, Father and Son,
Glory, Holy Spirit,
to you we raise our hands up high,
we glorify your name. *R:*

Collect

Let us pray that the Spirit will work through our lives
to bring Christ to the world.

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.
Amen.

First Reading: Acts 2.1-21

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And 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.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: John 20.19-23

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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.’

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Music for Reflection

Veni Sancte Spiritus, tui amoris ignem accende.

Come, Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love.

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for God to fill us with his Spirit.

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

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

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

and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the healing of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to bring wholeness of mind, body and spirit

for all who suffer, or are weighed down by grief, hardship or despair.

Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the gifts of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to equip all key-workers and those who reach out to
heal and to serve
that they may have strength for the work which you have given them.
Lord, come to bless us
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
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
and fill us with your Spirit.

United by the Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:
**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.**

Concluding Prayer

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort knowing
that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth,
give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of God;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Song: Oh, oh, oh

Oh, oh, oh, how good is the Lord.
Oh, oh, oh, how good is the Lord.
Oh, oh, oh, how good is the Lord.
We never will forget what he has done for us.