

Morning Worship for 31st May 2020 at 10.30am
Pentecost Sunday

Good morning everyone and welcome to worship in these extraordinary times when we are the church but are not in church.

Get together any symbols of the Holy Spirit you may have found,
and a piece of plain paper.

Remember that God is present with us as we gather in his name, and that wherever we are, we are the body of Christ.

Opening Prayer:- (from Roots)

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. Amen

Hymn STF 372 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.

And so with 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. (*Bianco da Siena translated by Richard Littledale*)

Prayer: (from Roots) Pour out your Spirit, loving Lord, that your sons and daughters may hear your prophetic word. Pour out your Spirit, loving Lord, that your sons and daughters may know how to live according to your ways. Pout out your Spirit, loving Lord, that your sons and daughters may worship you in Spirit and in Truth. Forgive us for what is past and protect us from all that is to come. Amen

We say the Lord's Prayer together.....

Bible Reading for today: Acts 2 v.1-21 if you do not have Bible to hand this is the story of the coming of the promised Holy Spirit, in rushing wind and tongues of flame. The Spirit realises the tongues of the disciples to speak in many languages and when Peter addresses the crowds in Jerusalem, quoting the prophecy of Joel, and affirming that the gift of the spirit is for ALL.

Reflection: The day of Pentecost is the birthday of the church, so "Happy Birthday" everyone. The day when Peter and the other disciples were first blessed with the Holy Spirit, dramatically as a mighty rushing wind and in tongues of flame which empowers them to begin to preach the Gospel,

starting in Jerusalem. We know that Peter's address to the large crowd won many converts. v.41 "Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day." A very effective preach indeed!!! Peter's message to the crowd is a vital one to our understanding of faith. God pours out his Spirit on all people, all; it is a totally inclusive gift to everyone who believes in Jesus and his gospel. And it means in these challenging days that we are not alone in all this, but that we have God's power within us with which we too can do our part to spread the Gospel message. So I invite you to take the symbols of the Holy Spirit that you have to hand and ponder on God's gift in your life and how you can serve God uniquely well using your God given gifts even in these days of lockdown. You may also like to make the dove, the template for which is on the back of my letter.

Prayers of Intercession: (adapted from Roots) Holy Spirit of unity, we pray for your Church, for its ministry to the faithful; for its mission to the world. May the Spirit of Pentecost breathe upon us, that we may witness to the world the comfort, meaning and love that you offer.

We pray that you, loving God would be with all on the frontline fighting this virus and for those providing our essential needs.

We pray for our families and our dearest friends, whom we miss profoundly and for our church family with whom we are joined in worship and prayer.

Give us all strength Lord, and courage for the days ahead. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Hymn: STF 378

Father of everlasting grace, your goodness and your truth we praise,
Your goodness and your truth we prove; you have, in honour of your Son, the
gift unspeakable sent down, the Spirit of life, and power, and love.

So shall we pray and never cease, so shall we thankfully confess your wisdom,
truth and power, and love, with joys unspeakable adore, and bless and
praise you evermore, and serve you as your hosts above:

Till, added to that heavenly choir, we raise our songs of triumph higher, and
praise you with a bolder voice, out-soar the first-born seraph's flight, and sing,
with all our friends in light, with everlasting love rejoice. *Charles Wesley*

Blessing: The Blessing of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit,
be with us now and always. Amen

Please consider this my "virtual" handshake and please stay safe and well.

If you are in need of anything, please call me on 01765 698288.

Next week is Trinity Sunday...you will need an egg!!!!