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## PENTECOST B

23rd May 2021

A short act of worship for use in peoples homes while churches are closed.

A Free resource part funded by



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## Call to Worship

Come Holy Spirit,  
Come Holy Spirit,  
Come Holy Spirit,  
Come amongst us as we pray,  
As we sing,  
As we listen and reflect.

Come amongst us we pray, in some mysterious way,

Amen.<sup>1</sup>

## Hymn: STF 440 Amazing Grace - [YouTube](#)

## Opening Prayers

God of all grace,  
We bring ourselves in worship,  
Opening ourselves up to the way the Spirit is at work amongst us.

We pray for justice,  
We pray for courage.

We listen to your word to us,  
And listen for The Word within us.

We take courage from this moment, from this encounter,  
To meet with you – O God.  
To be inspired by each other,  
And by stories from others who seek to follow you.

We know we have not always got it right this day, this week, this year.  
We know we have failed you,  
And we carry the guilt of that.

In this moment, we say sorry for all the times we have fallen short. Unburdening ourselves in the stillness.

*[Pause].*

And, on this Pentecost Sunday, we hear you saying to us: “your sins are forgiven”.  
Our connection with the divine is not broken or damaged, but renewed again this day.

And for that we rejoice.

We bring these, and all our prayers in Jesus’ name,  
Amen.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Call to Worship written by Tim Baker

<sup>2</sup> Opening prayers written by Tim Baker

## Let us now say the Lord's prayer

**Readings:** Acts 2:1-21 – [Click for reading](#)

Ezekiel 37:1-14 – [Click for reading](#)

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 – [Click for reading](#)

### Reflections on the Readings

*[You can read a full version of this reflection from Ramona Samuel as part of The Vine resources. Contact [thevine@twelvebaskets.org.uk](mailto:thevine@twelvebaskets.org.uk) to find out how your circuit can subscribe].*

I am sure that we all have different ideas as to what happened on the day of Pentecost, apart from what we read in scripture. Let's face it, the event is one that is most curious. Have you ever wondered why the coming of the spirit was accompanied by the sound of a mighty wind? Why it resulted in people speaking in tongues not previously known to them, or why the people reacted in fear and confusion. The answer might not be as far-fetched as we might think, for after all, we know and believe that God is powerful, and we see throughout scriptures that the presence of God often elicited awe and amazement. We have the examples of Moses and the burning bush, Isaiah in the temple, and Paul on the road to Damascus, just to name a few. So, it should be no surprise that the appearance of the Holy Spirit causes those reactions and responses. But perhaps the most important question should be what the Spirit is for...

... perhaps this time might be a good occasion for us to look more deeply into the Spirit's work and ask God to work in us the power that can only be found in the Holy Spirit, for us to live lives that are full of the wonder and amazement of God.

You are terrified, confused, and you have no idea what is happening...

The story of Pentecost is unfolding around you. This is a great moment in the New Testament, and gives birth to the church we are still a part of today.

### What are you being called to?

How would you describe the Holy Spirit?

What does it mean to you today?

How do you feel about or talk about the Holy Spirit?

Let's spend a few moments in reflection/conversation about this. Lots of theories circulate about the Spirit and her role in the world today (even the use of the pronoun 'her' in that sentence will no doubt raise some conversation!).

Using all that we have reflected on today as we have worked through Ramona's reflection, what strikes you? How might you talk about the Holy Spirit?

Perhaps find someone to share your thoughts and questions with.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

God of all grace,

We pray for your Church today,

Especially for the witness of your people in [...this community.],

Breathe new life into us, and grant us a clear vision to be faithful.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of all grace,

We pray for those who suffer today,

All who suffer for their faith...

All who suffer in body, mind and spirit...

Reveal yourself to all in need with comfort and peace.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of all grace,

We pray for the nations in your world.

Grant to those in authority the gifts needed to speak clearly across divides, to bring healing and calm, where there are wounds and discord.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of all grace,

In quietness we offer to you the people and places on our hearts today.

*[Silence]*

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

In faith, and hope, we offer these prayers to you Holy God.

We may see your work, vision, and kingdom come here on Earth.

This we pray in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.<sup>3</sup>

**Hymn: STF 409 Let us build a house - [YouTube](#)**

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<sup>3</sup> Prayers of intercession written by David Lees

## **Blessing**

May the fire of the Spirit be in your hearts,  
May the hope of transformation be in your minds,  
May the grace of God be in your bodies,

May you be a Pentecost people, in Jesus' name,

Amen.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Additional prayers by Tim Baker