

Worship at Home

Brought today by
Deacon Nigel Perrott

Pentecost Sunday
5th June 2022

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them

Psalm 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine on us
² so that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.
³ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
⁴ May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity
and guide the nations of the earth.
⁵ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
⁶ The land yields its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.
⁷ May God bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will revere
him.

Opening Prayer

Loving God, Blessed and Glorious Trinity,
Make your presence known in this place,
through our worship ,our prayer,
the reading of your Word.
Father, Son, Holy Spirit, within whose unity
lies all that is you ,perfect love,
justice, peace, and power.
As we come into your presence in our homes,
in our churches around this circuit,
your body, your church throughout this world,
fill our outstretched hearts with your spirit,
encircle us with your love.
Make yourself known to us in new ways,
exciting ways, challenging ways.

Empower us, Inspire us,
Glorious Trinity!

Amen

1st Hymn – STF 397 – “The Spirit lives to let us free”

- 1 The Spirit lives to set us free,
walk, walk in the light ;
he binds us all in unity,
walk, walk in the light.
*Walk in the light, walk in the light,
walk in the light, walk in the light of the
Lord*
- 2 Jesus promised life to all,
walk, walk in the light ;
the dead were wakened by his call,
walk, walk in the light.
- 3 He died in pain on Calvary,
walk, walk in the light ;
to save the lost like you and me,
walk, walk in the light.
- 4 We know his death was not the end,
walk, walk in the light ;
he gave his Spirit to be our friend,
walk, walk in the light.
- 5 By Jesus' love our wounds are healed,
walk, walk in the light ;
the Father's kindness is revealed,
walk, walk in the light.
- 6 The Spirit lives in you and me,
walk, walk in the light ;
his light will shine for all to see,
walk, walk in the light.

Damian Lundy (1944–1996)

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number 397

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Prayers of Adoration & Confession

Creator God, we glimpse your beauty in
setting sun,
mountain top, and eagle's wing.
We sense your power in thunder crash,
lightning flash
and ocean's roar. Creator God we praise you.
Precious Jesus, we see your love stretched
out upon a cruel cross.
We stand in awe at your sacrifice, pure love
poured out for humankind. Precious Jesus we

praise you

Holy Spirit, especially this day, we see your power in lives transformed, hearts on fire. We listen for your still, small voice, comforting, guiding, and calling. Holy Spirit we praise you

Loving God, your name is awesome, you are the King of Kings and the Lord of all,

Today Lord we bring our worship and praise, we thank you that in all things and all times you walk with us. ...we praise you Lord

Yet with all this, we have to acknowledge that we do get things wrong:

Loving God There are many things that separate us from worshipping you.

So many things distract us. In the face of the realities of our life, we so often feel the need to secure our future in ways that do not depend upon faith in you

Forgive us Lord for those times we have failed to act when prompted, failed to speak when we needed our voice, when we were prompted to moved and yet styed still. For those times where we gave only thoughts for ourselves rather than others. Lord forgive us.

Loving God, please understand our journey and be with us in forgiveness. **We pray this in Jesus, and bring our prayers together by saying the prayer Jesus taught us.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who is in heaven,
Hallowed be your Name.
Your Kingdom come.
Your will be done on earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
As we forgive those that sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.

3rd Hymn STF 398 "There's a spirit in the air"

- 1 There's a spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere :
'Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world !'
- 2 Lose your shyness, find your tongue,
tell the world what God has done :
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today !
- 3 When believers break the bread,
when a hungry child is fed,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.
- 4 Still the Spirit gives us light,
seeing wrong and setting right :
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today !
- 5 When a stranger's not alone,
where the homeless find a home,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.
- 6 May the Spirit fill our praise,
guide our thoughts and change our
ways.
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today.
- 7 There's a Spirit in the air,
calling people everywhere :
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.

Brian Wren (b. 1936)

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Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Reflection

So this very well-known depiction of the coming of the Holy Spirit is read each year. However, what is this this saying to us today, in 2022?

I think we need to step back, just a week. Last week we remembered the day of accession, the day when Jesus returned to heaven. Jesus made a promise and gave an instruction. He told them that he was leaving them a gift, a gift that would empower them. They should wait until it was received before

moving on. Jesus went on to explain what this gift was. I like to think of this as his legacy, our inheritance.

Now this gift will come in a pretty impressive way. Rushing winds fire, it will see thousands come to faith in Christ. We might think that the Jubilee celebrations are going to be good, they don't have anything to match what Pentecost looked like! That is what I call a gift. This gift will move the disciples to travel all over the world proclaiming the love and saving grace of Christ, even at the risk of their own lives. It would even lead some of them writing down the very words that we read in our Gospels today. . The gift Jesus was leaving them was the greatest inheritance ever.

It was the gift that warmed the heart of John Wesley, and is also the gift that is given to us today. Now today, it is unlikely that the Holy Spirit will dance like fire on your heads, you may not start speaking in another language, and you may not be used to write down the very word of God in a new Gospel. But, the word of God does come to us every time we open the bible and read what those disciples wrote. Every time we open the bible, the Holy Spirit can open our eyes to see a new way of understanding the love and work of God in our lives. You know when you see a film many times, you sometimes say, *"I've never seen that before"* That is exactly how the gift of the spirit can work. The inheritance of the Holy Spirit is ours, just as it was for the first disciples, and continues to work in our lives as followers of Christ. The greatest gift ever!

Now, when Jesus describes this gift to the disciples, he calls it the councillor, in some translations it says Advocate. Both these words are really interesting: Advocate can be:

champion · upholder · supporter · backer · promoter · proponent ·
Councillor: Someone who guides you, listens to you

Over the last couple of years so many people have suffered and ended up needing an advocate or councilor, so many people need guidance and help. There are many who need to find peace within themselves. When Jesus talks of this gift he is hinting that this gift has more to offer.

"Peace I leave you, my peace I give to you, I do not give to you as the world gives to you". The peace of the Holy Spirit is the gift that no earthly councillor or advocate can give. In this life, so many people do so many different things to find peace. Some people go fishing, or go out for a walk in the country, some people sit and read a book. When things get bad some people find an earthly councillor to help them find that peace in their lives. All these things are really good and help to get some peace. The trouble is, these things, though good, mean we have to return from them. At some point we have to go home from the fishing trip, we need to get home from the walk, or put the book down and get the tea on. This weekend sees the great celebrations of the Queens Platinum Jubilee, I am sure that it will be a great time, but on Tuesday morning we will all have to go back to work, back to what was going on before, it will come to an end.

The peace that comes from God is permanent, the promise of the Holy Spirit, and the peace it can bring, remains with us through the most difficult of times, it lasts an eternity. It points to the never ending love that God has for us.

This gift will not remove the problems, but it will remind you that God remains with you and points toward the knowledge that his peace is eternal.

With this knowledge, this realization of what the Holy Spirit can do it is no wonder that John Wesley's heart was strangely warmed!

We should never underestimate the power of peace, peace is left with us through the power of the Holy Spirit. Isn't that an amazing thought?

So the gift of the Holy Spirit that was passed onto us, brings, knowledge, power and peace, for the whole of eternity.

Amen.

4th Hymn STF 404 – "God's spirit is in my heart"

God's spirit is in my heart ;
he has called me and set me apart.

This is what I have to do,
what I have to do :

*He sent me to give the good news to
the poor,
tell prisoners that they are prisoners no
more,
tell blind people that they can see,
and set the down-trodden free,
and go tell everyone
the news that the kingdom of God has
come ;
and go tell everyone
the news that God's kingdom has
come.*

- 2 Just as the Father sent me,
so I'm sending you out to be
my witness throughout the world —
the whole of the world :
- 3 Don't carry a load in your pack ;
you don't need two shirts on your back ;
God's workers can earn their own keep
—
can earn their own keep :
- 4 Don't worry what you have to say ;
don't worry, because on that day
God's spirit will speak in your heart —
will speak in your heart :

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Prayers of intercession

Loving God

As we celebrate today, we pray for all those
who follow you, for who worshiping you, has
to be done in secret.

For those today who are unable to worship
because of war and violence.

We remember the Ukraine, Yemen and
Afghanistan. All those who live under the
shadow of oppression and fear. We also
remember the terrible events in America this
week and pray for all those affected

May they know the peace that comes from
you, may they be comforted and know your
presence.

Pause

We remember all those who mourn ...those
of us having to deal with the emptiness that a
loved one has left behind.

May all in need find comfort, strength and
freedom in the living Christ. Lord of life, hear
us in your love.

And we pray for our circuit ,we pray that you
do indeed guide through your Holy Spirit, all
our plans and hopes for the future. We pray
that we can be a people that demonstrate
your love and we can be great witnesses of
Christ in this community.

Pause

And finally a prayer for our Queen

Loving God

you are God above all nations, rulers and
leaders,

and so we thank you

for the faithful service of Elizabeth, our
Queen,

in this her platinum jubilee year.

Grant her grace

to fulfil her coronation vows to you as our
earthly ruler.

Strengthen her faith;

deepen her life of prayer;

bless her example of godliness;

and magnify her experience of your love;

that she may continue to be

a beacon of stability and hope

for our country.

Gracious God, we ask these prayers through
Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Saviour.

Amen

Blessing

God of power,

may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,

may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,

may the gifts of your Spirit

be our goal and our strength,

now and always. Amen.