

Morning Prayer 23rd May 2021

The Day of Pentecost

Morning Worship with Margaret + Malcolm Rittman



Welcome

If you are a person who doesn't like to sit still and prefers to be doing something, if you have pens and paper or modelling materials, you might like to make a model or picture of a fire as you take part in the service, and we'll look at them later.

Alleluia.
Christ is risen
He is risen indeed.
Alleluia

Hymn: SoF 64 Colours of day

Colours of day dawn into the mind,
The sun has come up, the night is behind.
Go down in the city, into the street,
And let's give the message to the people we meet.

So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
Open the door, let Jesus return.
Take seeds of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,
Tell the people of Jesus, let His love show.

Go through the park, on into the town;
The sun still shines on, it never goes down.
The light of the world is risen again;
The people of darkness are needing a friend.

So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
Open the door, let Jesus return.
Take seeds of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,
Tell the people of Jesus, let His love show.

Open your eyes, look into the sky,
The darkness has come, the Son came to die.
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,
But Jesus is living, His Spirit is near.

So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
Open the door, let Jesus return.
Take seeds of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,
Tell the people of Jesus, let His love show.

CCLI Song # 550092
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God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit on everyone'.
Come, Holy Spirit and pour out your power on us.

Jesus Christ, whom we worship, is our crucified, risen
and ascended Lord
and we have walked 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 await the coming of the promised Holy Spirit, his
gift to his people,
through whom we make Christ known to the world.

As we wait in silence,
fill us with your Spirit.
As we listen to your word,
fill us with your Spirit.
As we worship you in majesty,
fill us with your Spirit.

As we long for your refreshing,
fill us with your Spirit.
As we long for your renewing,
fill us with your Spirit.
As we long for your equipping,
fill us with your Spirit.
As we long for your empowering,
fill us with your Spirit.

The Collect

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer of Confession

When we ignore you and go our own way,
Lord, have mercy:

Lord, have mercy

When we forget your presence with us, and become
like dry bones,
Christ, have mercy:

Christ, have mercy

When we do things in our own strength and not yours,
Lord, have mercy:

Lord, have mercy

Absolution

Father forgive us through the death of Jesus you Son,
and strengthen us to live in the power of your Holy
Spirit today and every day.

Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Breath of Life

¹⁻² GOD grabbed me. GOD's Spirit took me up and set me down in the middle of an open plain strewn with bones. He led me around and among them—a lot of bones! There were bones all over the plain—dry bones, bleached by the sun.

³ He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said, “Master GOD, only you know that.”

⁴ He said to me, “Prophecy over these bones: ‘Dry bones, listen to the Message of GOD!’”

⁵⁻⁶ GOD, the Master, told the dry bones, “Watch this: I'm bringing the breath of life to you and you'll come to life. I'll attach sinews to you, put meat on your bones, cover you with skin, and breathe life into you. You'll come alive and you'll realize that I am GOD!”

⁷⁻⁸ I prophesied just as I'd been commanded. As I prophesied, there was a sound and, oh, rustling! The bones moved and came together, bone to bone. I kept watching. Sinews formed, then muscles on the bones, then skin stretched over them. But they had no breath in them.

⁹ He said to me, “Prophecy to the breath. Prophecy, son of man. Tell the breath, ‘GOD, the Master, says, Come from the four winds. Come, breath. Breathe on these slain bodies. Breathe life!’”

¹⁰ So I prophesied, just as he commanded me. The breath entered them and they came alive! They stood up on their feet, a huge army.

¹¹ Then God said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Listen to what they're saying: ‘Our bones are dried up, our hope is gone, there's nothing left of us.’

¹²⁻¹⁴ “Therefore, prophecy. Tell them, ‘GOD, the Master, says: I'll dig up your graves and bring you out alive—O my people! Then I'll take you straight to the land of Israel. When I dig up graves and bring you out as my people, you'll realize that I am GOD. I'll breathe my life into you and you'll live. Then I'll lead you straight back to your land and you'll realize that I am GOD. I've said it and I'll do it. GOD's Decree.’”

Hymn: SoF 510 Spirit Of The Living God

Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me,
Mold me, fill me,
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.

CCLI Song # 23488

Daniel Iverson

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Reading: Acts 2:1-21

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we

hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ “In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of
the Lord.

²¹ And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

Talk

What is essential for you to be able to live and breathe?

Oxygen

As Christians we also need something to enable us to live as Christians. Can anyone guess what that is – there was a clue in the second reading?

Holy Spirit



In that reading we are told the Holy Spirit appeared like tongues of fire. Has anyone made a picture or a model representing the fire of the Holy Spirit? Let's have a look at them.

Today is the day we celebrate God giving us the gift of the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can live and breathe and grow as Christians.

At the beginning of this service we declared a promise of God, that he would 'pour out his Spirit on everyone', a prophecy written by the prophet Joel about 4 or 5 hundred years before Jesus was born.

And Pentecost is the time when the flood gates opened and that promise was completed. It's amazing isn't it. I find it hard to remember a promise to do something last week, never mind remember it a year's time, but that's one of the things about God. Time doesn't exist for him but if he has promised something, it will happen in his good time.

I know it might seem a bit odd, but I'm going to focus on the other story we heard read from the book of Ezekiel. The valley of the dry bones.

God took Ezekiel to an area which was covered with dry, dead, white bones. No idea where they came from or why they hadn't been buried, but there they were. I bet Ezekiel was terrified of tiptoeing between them, all the scary, spooky stories of ghosts and skeletons floating across his thoughts.

'Do you think these bones can live again?' asked God.

Note, he didn't say 'could' these bones live again. The answer to that question would be well, yes, if some new scientific technology was discovered it might have eventually been developed to allow it to happen, whereas 'can' these bones live again' seems to imply things would be a bit more instant.

What a daft question! Of course they can't!

But God is our creator. He created the people in the first place and he saw his creation was good, the plants, animals and the people. And we, the people, were seen as having a particular role and responsibility in looking after the rest of it, so I guess we shouldn't be surprised that he firstly told the bones what he was going to do, and then he did it.

Skin, muscles and movement as the bones reconnected. But no life. It wasn't until God breathed life into them that they began to breathe and be real people again able to live and move and communicate again.

In verse 11 God said ' this is just like my people Israel. They'd lost hope, they'd lost their relationship with God and they were at rock bottom. But through this miracle, God showed them how he'd never forgotten them, he'd never stopped caring for them and he would always be there for them.

We can appear to be spiritually alive, but without The Holy Spirit living in us, that may be a very superficial thing.

So how can we, practically, ask God to fill us with his life giving breath?

That's where your balloon comes in.

I want you to write the prayer 'Fill me with your Holy Spirit' on your balloon – whatever language you like, it's God who's reading it, not me.

It'll have to be small or you won't fit it all in.

If you think it would be easier for you then draw a picture of a bird, a dove, the representation of the Holy Spirit.

Now inflate your balloon. Blow it up and every few breaths, have a look and see your message getting bigger and bigger. Growing on your balloon and in your self, as you inflate the balloon.

Now if you look, through the Bible, particularly through the Acts, you will find that, although as Christians, we are filled with the Holy Spirit, with all the evangelism the followers of Jesus were doing, they sometimes needed a top up. Constantly to be 'filled'.

So this means that when you are living your life as a Christian at home, at work, at school, you often need a top up. So what I want you to do is WHEN I TELL YOU TO to let go of your balloon showing that you are spreading the love and message of Jesus around.

Now let it go.

Find it, re inflate it, remember God's constant refilling with his Holy Spirit, and read your prayer again!

This time when you let it go, leave it where it is so that we can finish the service, and you should have time to do it again before you have your lunch.

We sometimes sanitise the Holy Spirit and think of him as a giver of gifts, the spirit of peace as illustrated by the dove and a power which helps us gets through each day, a go between between us and God.

But think about it.

The Holy Spirit came in the form of a violent wind and flames of fire. There's nothing safe about uncontrolled fire, particularly with a strong wind to fan the flames, as we've has been experienced in a number of countries across the world in the past few years.

One of the roles of the Holy Spirit, specified in John 16 is to show us right from wrong and to give us a conscience, and that can put us at odds with many people in our lives.

Yes, the coming of the Holy Spirit which we celebrate today, is a source of comfort and strength for us, but

also a spirit of challenge and courage as we live each day according to God's rules.

So my challenge to you today is to pray that prayer 'Come Holy Spirit' and allow God to use you to challenge those who don't know him yet. **Amen.**

Intercessions (by Lauren)

We ask for your forgiveness, Lord, when we forget the power that lies within,
and trust instead upon our human strength.
Remind us of that day when your Spirit transformed the lives of those
who hid in fear, into men and women of power.
Renew these hearts which have grown cold with flames of fire,
as on that Pentecost, that this might be the church that you desire.

Lord, come to bless us

And fill us with your Spirit.

You gave Your disciples the mandate to be Your witnesses around the world and empowered them with Your Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost to accomplish this task. Today, we ask that You help us to refocus our attention, as we face a task unfinished. You have blessed us with the power and the gifts of Your Holy Spirit. Help us to use these for ministry and witness.

Lord, come to bless us

And fill us with your Spirit.

Living God, thank You for the surpassing greatness of Your power to us who believe. Because You came to dwell in us on Pentecost, we have Your mighty strength with which You raised Christ from the dead. Strengthen us in our inner being, so that we can know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge and be filled with all the fullness of God.

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 healing of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness where there is division, sickness and sorrow.

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 us for the work which you have given us.

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.

Generous God, you sent your Holy Spirit upon your Messiah at the river Jordan, And upon the disciples in the upper room.

In your mercy fill us with your Spirit,

Hear our prayer

And make us one in heart and mind.

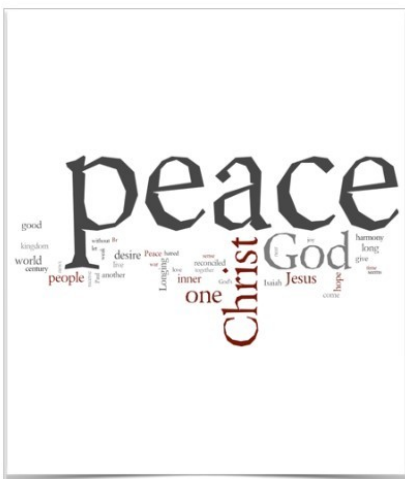
God has made us one in Christ.

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. Alleluia!

The Peace

God makes peace within us— let us claim it.



God makes peace between us—let us share it.
The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hymn: ACF 21 Come Holy Ghost

1 Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

2 Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our mortal sight.

3 Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but one;
that through the ages all along
this may be our endless song:

4 Praise to thine eternal merit,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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Closing Prayer

**Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of your
Holy Spirit;
Please fill us with your breath and power every
day,
so that everyone may see through us,
that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world.
Amen.**



Blessing

May God's Holy Spirit be in your life

[place hand on heart]

May God's Holy Spirit be in our world

[sweep hand out in front]

May God's Holy Spirit be love between us

[hold hands or open them out]

And the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and those you love, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia