

**Worship for Pentecost Sunday (complete text. A video version is also online)**  
**Keep safe. Keep caring. Keep praying.**

---

*“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.” The words from Acts as the Spirit came to the disciples remind us that following Jesus can also be dramatic, an exciting, roller coaster ride of faith. Welcome to worship for Pentecost. We hope you enjoy this mix of traditional and more contemporary worship. If any of you would like to take part, then please get in touch with me on [revpeter.mwc@gmail.com](mailto:revpeter.mwc@gmail.com)*

THE PREPARATION

*Call to worship*

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.**

StF 372 – Come down O Love divine

- 1. 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.**
- 2. 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  
illuminating.**
- 3. 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.**

- 4. 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.**

*Prayer of approach*

Pour out your Spirit, loving Lord,  
that your sons and your daughters may hear  
your prophetic word.  
Pour out your Spirit, loving Lord,  
that your sons and your daughters may know  
how to live according to your ways.  
Pour out your Spirit, loving Lord,  
that your sons and your daughters may worship  
you  
in Spirit and in Truth.  
**Amen.**

*Prayer of adoration*

Earth’s creator,  
**Everyday God**

Loving Maker,  
**Oh Jesus,**

You who shaped us,  
**O spirit,**

Recreate us  
**Come, be with us.**

Life of all lives,  
**Everyday God**  
Love of all loves,  
**Oh Jesus,**  
Hope of all hopes,  
**O spirit,**  
Light of all lights  
**Come, be with us.**

In our dreaming,  
**Everyday God**

In our daring,  
**Oh Jesus,**

In our searching,  
**O spirit,**

In our sharing  
**Come, be with us.**

Word of gladness,  
**Everyday God**

Word of mercy,  
**Oh Jesus,**

Word of friendship,  
**O spirit,**

Word of challenge  
**Come, be with us.**

Alleluia,  
**Everyday God**

Now and always,  
**Oh Jesus,**

Alleluia  
**O spirit,**

Through all ages  
**Come, be with us.**

*Prayer of confession*

God, your love is unconditional;  
your gifts are offered with measureless  
generosity;  
your peace is all-encompassing.  
We are sorry for times  
when we have put conditions on our willingness  
to care;  
when we have kept what we have for ourselves  
and refused to share with others;  
when we have failed to seek peace and have  
caused discord.  
Forgive us; restore us; renew us by your Spirit of  
life.

*SILENCE*

Christ Jesus came into the world, by His Spirit, to  
save the world.

This is his gracious word:

‘Your sins are forgiven’.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

StF 564 – O thou who camest from above

- 1. O thou who camest from above  
the pure celestial fire to impart,  
kindle a flame of sacred love  
on the mean altar of my heart!**
- 2. There let it for thy glory burn  
with inextinguishable blaze,  
and trembling to its source return,  
in humble prayer and fervent praise.**
- 3. Jesus, confirm my heart’s desire  
to work, and speak, and think for thee;  
still let me guard the holy fire,  
and still stir up thy gift in me –**
- 4. Ready for all thy perfect will,  
my acts of faith and love repeat,  
till death thy endless mercies seal,  
and make the sacrifice complete.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Ezekiel 37:1-14 New Living Translation (NLT)

*A Valley of Dry Bones*

<sup>1</sup>The Lord took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the Lord to a valley filled with bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around among the bones that covered the valley floor. They were scattered everywhere across the ground and were completely dried out. <sup>3</sup>Then he asked me, “Son of man, can these bones become living people again?”

“O Sovereign Lord,” I replied, “you alone know the answer to that.”

<sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, “Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, ‘Dry bones, listen to the word of the Lord! <sup>5</sup>This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again! <sup>6</sup>I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.’”

<sup>7</sup>So I spoke this message, just as he told me. Suddenly as I spoke, there was a rattling noise all across the valley. The bones of each body came together and attached themselves as complete skeletons. <sup>8</sup>Then as I watched, muscles and flesh formed over the bones. Then skin formed to cover their bodies, but they still had no breath in them.

<sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, “Speak a prophetic message to the winds, son of man. Speak a prophetic message and say, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, O breath, from the four winds! Breathe into these dead bodies so they may live again.’”

<sup>10</sup>So I spoke the message as he commanded me, and breath came into their bodies. They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones represent the people of Israel. They are saying, ‘We have become old, dry bones—all hope is

gone. Our nation is finished.’ <sup>12</sup>Therefore, prophesy to them and say, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: O my people, I will open your graves of exile and cause you to rise again. Then I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>When this happens, O my people, you will know that I am the Lord. <sup>14</sup>I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live again and return home to your own land. Then you will know that I, the Lord, have spoken, and I have done what I said. Yes, the Lord has spoken!’”

*Psalm Psalm 104:24-34; 35b*

<sup>24</sup>How many are your works, Lord!  
in wisdom you made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.

<sup>25</sup>There is the sea, vast and spacious,  
teeming with creatures beyond number –  
living things both large and small.

<sup>26</sup>There the ships go to and fro,  
and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic  
there.

<sup>27</sup>All creatures look to you  
to give them their food at the proper  
time.

<sup>28</sup>When you give it to them,  
they gather it up;  
when you open your hand,  
they are satisfied with good things.

<sup>29</sup>When you hide your face,  
they are terrified;  
when you take away their breath,  
they die and return to the dust.

<sup>30</sup>When you send your Spirit,  
they are created,  
and you renew the face of the ground.

<sup>31</sup>May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;  
may the Lord rejoice in his works –

<sup>32</sup>he who looks at the earth, and it trembles,  
who touches the mountains, and they  
smoke.

<sup>33</sup>I will sing to the Lord all my life;  
I will sing praise to my God as long as I  
live.

<sup>34</sup>May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
as I rejoice in the Lord.

<sup>35</sup>Praise the Lord, my soul.  
Praise the Lord

*Epistle Acts 2:1-21*

### *The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost*

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.

<sup>6</sup>When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. <sup>7</sup>Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup>Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?

<sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup>(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" <sup>12</sup>Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

<sup>13</sup>Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

### *Peter Addresses the Crowd*

<sup>14</sup>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.

<sup>15</sup>These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup>No, this is what

was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>"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.

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

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

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

<sup>21</sup>And everyone who calls  
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

### *Reflection*

In the Jewish tradition, Pentecost is the festival of the First Harvest. It occurs 50 days after Passover, 50 days after the crucifixion of Jesus. It was a festival of pilgrimage which meant that devout Jews travelled to Jerusalem from every corner of the known world. It was a truly international affair! Jerusalem would be packed and buzzing with people speaking in every different language—the perfect audience for God's evangelical plan—the perfect First Harvest.

In our Christian tradition, what do we think of when we hear the word 'Pentecost', what image does it conjure up for us? – A full blown hurricane of the Holy Spirit? The power of the cross, swept up in its vortex and broken? A great unstoppable wave of certainty, unfettered access to God's all-consuming power and love with which to do his will?

It certainly seemed that way on that famous Pentecost back in AD 33. A small group of frightened, largely uneducated men and women facing unbeatable odds, the organised might of the Roman Empire— outnumbered and out

gunned. Then, in an instant, by the action of the Holy Spirit they are turned into a dynamic, courageous, articulate army. Not just articulate, but fluent in every language known to man. God's word is heard, each in their own tongue, to signify that Christ's teachings will be spread to the peoples of all nations. We can only begin to imagine the emotional charge that they must have experienced that day, the pure intensity of elation, the soaring of their spirits, lifted up on wings like eagles. But surely, they didn't stay there, on that emotional high. There must have been a coming down, maybe slow, maybe a great swooping drop.

The last few lines of Peter's quotation from Joel indicate to us that they were expecting Jesus to return at any minute in triumph. They expected the impetus to carry on, and so it did, a great wave fanning out across the world, but that wave is still going 2000 years later. That most certainly wasn't what they had in mind in that moment of phenomenal energy and outpouring. So, as I say, there must have been a coming down.

I think many of us will be able to relate to that.

Someone recently sent me a list of new terminology relating to the pandemic- they were very witty, they made me smile and kept my spirits up, but one in particular resonated deeply in me. The term was Corona-coaster. No explanation was given, none was needed. Everything is fine isn't it, we are riding the storm, finding our way through the unknown with inventiveness, ingenuity and the wonders of Zoom. Then, quite suddenly, we're not. The rate of change, the degree of uncertainty as to where this will all end crushes our mood, challenges our faith.

It is the dips on the roller coaster of life that are the test, the times when the Holy Spirit seems at best like a tiny pilot light, not a full-blown gas

burner, let alone a hurricane! We sometime feel alone and afraid, all of us, even Jesus.

At times like these we need to hold onto our saviour's words- and never forget that Jesus always keeps his promises. We learn in *Matthew 7:7* that Jesus told us to:

*"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. (NLT)*

Even when we don't feel the spirit move, if we ask for it, it does come. A small, still flame deep inside, waiting for the moment to burst into life and roar through us like that hurricane on the very first Pentecost. But we do have to keep asking. There is a simple daily prayer which we can use:

*Father God, please forgive my sins  
Lord Jesus, thankyou for dying on the  
cross for me  
Please come Holy Spirit, dwell in me.*

Today- many of us are guarding that little flame, the pilot light- small, but living. We are asked to wait indoors, to limit our activities, to stay away from our loved ones and friends, from our bible study groups and church, stretching our relationships. God, who made us specifically for relationship with Him, understands how difficult this is.

But I wonder what will happen when we are let out again? When we are free to make choices for ourselves? When we can assess the full impact, good and bad, on our church, on ourselves, our society, and the dreadful cost to the poorest and most vulnerable at home and abroad? Surely that will be the time, if no other, when we shall need the full force of the wisdom, the strength, the power and conviction of the Holy Spirit within us as we help to shape the new normal.

We must be sure to cosset that little flame, to call on it every day, so that we are ready for when we are called to action, whenever, and however that might be.

And so I ask you to join with me in that simple prayer:

***Father God, please forgive my sins  
Lord Jesus, thankyou for dying on the  
cross for me  
Holy Spirit, please come, dwell in me.  
Amen***

StF 89 – Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord

**Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,  
we will wait upon the Lord,  
we will wait upon the Lord.  
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,  
we will wait upon the Lord,  
we will wait upon the Lord.**

**Our God, you reign forever.  
Our hope, our strong deliverer.**

***You are the everlasting God  
the everlasting God.  
You do not faint, you won't grow weary.  
You're the defender of the weak  
You comfort those in need;  
You lift us up on wings like eagles.***

#### THE RESPONSE

##### *Prayers of thanksgiving*

For the intervention of the Spirit who hovered over the waters and brought order out of chaos creating the world with the interdependence of nature and the part we humans have within it:  
Let us bless the Lord, **Thanks be to God**

For the outpouring of the Spirit – no longer limited to the few, now active in all renewing and recreating as we encourage and allow:  
Let us bless the Lord, **Thanks be to God**

For Jesus Christ our saviour, who lived and worked among us, demonstrating the Spirit's gifts and encouraging spiritual fruit  
Let us bless the Lord, **Thanks be to God**

For His suffering and death on the cross and His resurrection to new life, for breathing the Spirit into His disciples,  
Let us bless the Lord, **Thanks be to God**

For the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, who teaches and guides us for the lessons we are learning of mutual support:  
Let us bless the Lord, **Thanks be to God**

For the grace of God in the work of the church *scattered or gathered* and the life of the world:  
Let us bless the Lord, **Thanks be to God**

#### TABLE OF THE LORD – Tom Smith

**From the cross, You made a table  
Making room for all of us  
Though the feast is never-ending  
We will never know the cost**

**From Your hands, You made a table  
With the nails that held You down  
By Your scars, You built redemption  
We will never know the cost**

***We give thanks around the table  
The table of the Lord  
Where Your mercy's pouring freely  
And Your perfect love restores  
Oh! Your grace is overflowing  
It spills out on the floor  
There is always more  
At the table of the Lord***

**From the grave, You rose in power  
Now forever You will reign  
Highest King and humble servant  
Come and take Your rightful place  
Come and take Your rightful place**

***We give thanks around the table  
The table of the Lord***

**Where Your mercy's pouring freely  
And Your perfect love restores  
Oh! Your grace is overflowing  
It spills out on the floor  
There is always more  
At the table of the Lord**

**We're in awe of who You are  
We're in awe of what You've done  
We have to worship, we have to worship  
We're in awe, we belong  
We're in awe of it all  
We have to worship, we have to worship**

*Prayers of intercession*

Turning our thoughts to others and the world.  
We pray to God whose Spirit helps us in our weakness and guides us in our prayers, we pray for the Church and for the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

Let us pray:

Lord, renew the life and faith of the Church; today remembering those who have crossed international and cultural boundaries serving in His name as mission partners now returned to their home country: Some crossing continents for long service or short, and those who crossed boundaries in mission near to home.

Strengthen our witness Lord, and make us one in Christ . . .

Grant that we and all who confess that Christ is Lord may be faithful in your service and filled with the Spirit, that the world may be turned to you.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Guide the nations in the ways of justice, liberty and peace;  
and help them to seek the unity and welfare of all people . . .

Give to all in authority wisdom to know and strength to do what is right seeking justice and well being for all. We pray Lord for sound

thinking in easing of "Lock Down" in this country and elsewhere round the world. For those who work un-noticed providing food and essential supplies through shops, warehouses and delivery; for carers paid and voluntary, for teachers, class room assistants, and all involved in supporting children and young people:

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Comfort those in sorrow; particularly the bereaved coping in these abnormal times, heal the sick in body or in mind giving patience and protection to those who wait for planned procedures and deliver the oppressed . . .

Grant us compassion for all who suffer, and help us so to carry one another's burdens that we may fulfil the law of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Receive our thanks and praise for all who have served you faithfully here on earth, this week remembering especially those who have revealed to us your grace in Christ. We name those known to us.....

May we and all your people share the life and joy of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

*The Lord's Prayer*

We say together the prayer that Jesus gave us:

**Our Father in Heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
On earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil,**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory  
are yours, now and forever**

**Amen**

*The Offering & prayer*

Many of us make bring our gifts and offerings through standing orders, through charitable gifts that we make, giving our time and our availability, our care and our compassion. We offer all we give as part of this worship today.

**Generous giver of gifts – take all we give and grow your fruit in and through us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

THE DISMISSAL

StF 167 – Colours of day dawn into the mind

1. **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.*

2. **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.*

3. **Open your eyes, look into the sky,  
the darkness has come, the sun 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.***

*Prayer & blessing*

May the power of the Spirit challenge you.

May the peace of the Spirit comfort you.

May the presence of the Spirit enable you to live in love and service in the name of Christ.

**Amen**