

Pentecost 2020

If you are watching this service on YouTube, you will notice that we have a lot of our friends (and some special guests!) wishing us Happy Birthday today! The YouTube video today has the words to the hymns on the screen, which means that you will not need to print out the order of service to follow along – though you might want to look at it later to refresh your memory.



Today is the day we remember the birth of the Church, so long ago, and we celebrate the presence of God's Spirit with us and among us now—the strength and hope and life that we have through him. We remember our baptisms and confirmations, giving thanks for our life within God's community of love, and we pray for courage and hope for the days to come, as we celebrate the continual presence of God's Spirit with all God's people and with the whole of creation.

The next hymn is sung to the tune for "Crown him with many crowns"

**Come, Holy Spirit, come! In flame our souls with love;
transforming ev'ry heart and home with wisdom from above.
O let us not despise the humble path Christ trod,
but choose to shame the worldly-wise, the foolishness of God.**

**Come with the gift to heal the wounds of guilt and fear,
and to oppression's face reveal the kingdom drawing near.
Where chaos longs to reign, descend, O holy Dove,
and free us all to work again the miracles of love.**

**Spirit of truth, arise; inspire the prophet's voice:
expose to scorn the tyrant's lies, and bid the poor rejoice.
O Spirit, clear our sight, all prejudice remove,
and help us to discern the right, and covet only love.**

**Give us the tongues to speak, in ev'ry time and place,
to rich and poor, to strong and weak, the word of love and grace.
Enable us to hear the words that others bring,
interpreting with open ear the special song they sing.**

**Come, Holy Spirit, dance within our hearts today,
our earthbound spirits to entrance, our mortal fears allay.
And teach us to desire, all other things above,
that self-consuming holy fire, the perfect gift of love!**

As we prepare for our confession now, we remember times when we have not kept our promise to live as children of God. We remember the mistakes that we have made, the hurtful things we have said and done, and all those times when we have failed to love God and our neighbour as ourselves.

We are quiet for a moment and reflect in our hearts...

Look up to the heavens.
Remember that God has become one of us, has loved us,
and has sent his Spirit to lead us into life.
The Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Gloria

Refrain: *Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

- 1. Lord God heavenly King, peace you bring to us, we worship you, we give you thanks, we sing our song of praise.**
- 2. Jesus, saviour of all, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away our sins, O Lord, have mercy on us all.**
- 3. At the Father's right hand, Lord, receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One and you alone are Lord.**
- 4. Glory Father and Son, glory Holy Spirit! To you we raise our hands up high! We glorify your name**

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,
Amen

We hear our reading for the day from Acts.... The coming of the Holy Spirit.

A Reading from the book of Acts **The Coming of the Holy Spirit**

On the day of Pentecost^[a] all the disciples were together in one place. ²Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind! It filled the house where they were meeting. ³Then they saw what looked like fiery tongues moving in all directions, and a tongue came and settled on each person there. ⁴The Holy Spirit took control of everyone, and they began speaking whatever languages the Spirit let them speak. Many religious Jews from every country in the world were living in Jerusalem. And when they heard this noise, a crowd gathered. But they were surprised, because they were hearing everything in their own languages. They were excited and amazed, and said:

Don't all these who are speaking come from Galilee? Then why do we hear them speaking our very own languages? We come from many countries and have many different languages, Yet we all hear them using our own languages to tell the wonderful things God has done.

Everyone was excited and confused. Some of them even kept asking each other, "What does all this mean?"

Others made fun of the Lord's followers and said, "They are drunk."

Peter stood with the eleven apostles and spoke in a loud and clear voice to the crowd:

Friends and everyone else living in Jerusalem, listen carefully to what I have to say! You are wrong to think that these people are drunk. After all, it is only nine o'clock in the morning. But this is what God had the prophet Joel say,

"When the last days come,

I will give my Spirit

to everyone.

Your sons and daughters

will prophesy.

Your young men

will see visions,

and your old men

will have dreams.

In those days I will give

my Spirit to my servants,

both men and women,

and they will prophesy.

I will work miracles

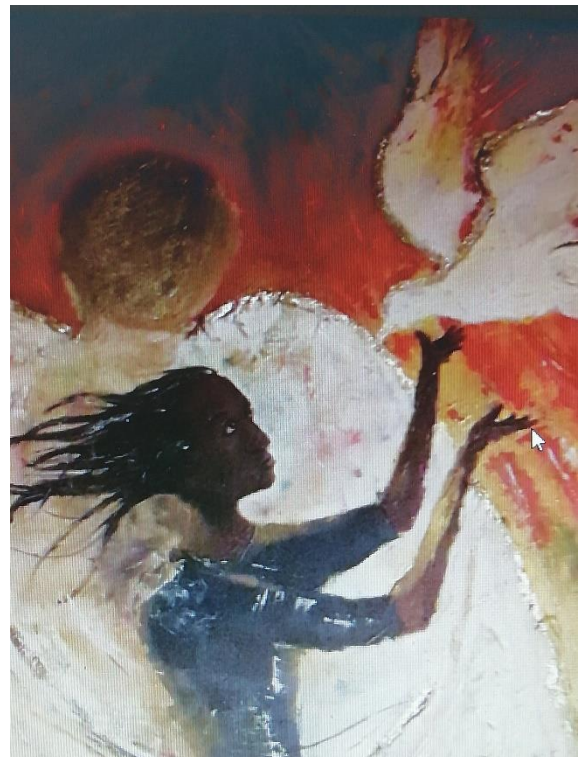
in the sky above

and wonders

on the earth below.

There will be blood and fire

and clouds of smoke.



The sun will turn dark,
and the moon
will be as red as blood
before the great
and wonderful day
of the Lord appears.

Then the Lord
will save everyone
who asks for his help.”

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It is this experience that the disciples had on that day so long ago that marks the beginning of the Church's life. This is the moment that the disciples stopped hiding away in a room and went out into the world to tell people about Jesus. It was the day they stopped being governed by fear, and began to believe that they had something worth sharing. It was the day they realised that nothing was more important than Jesus' love. And this is why we celebrate today. Because without God's Holy Spirit with us, there is no Church – and with God's Holy Spirit, the Church can never be defeated.

There is a famous passage in Galatians which explains how we can know whether or not we are acting by God's Spirit or just for our own convenience and preference. It tells us that the fruits of the Spirit – that is – the evidence that the Spirit is working in our lives – are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

Homework! Today I am sending you away to make up a party bag full of things to represent the fruits of the Spirit. Here are some ideas, but you might have some ideas of your own...

LOVE	A heart A love heart sweet, or chocolate heart or a heart shaped bead or knitted heart.
JOY	A smile A smiley face sticker or a photo of someone you love
PEACE	An olive branch In the UK climate, you may need to use some other twig as a stunt double!
PATIENCE	A piece of string How long is a piece of string? Patience may be harder when we don't know how long we'll have to wait. And, you can fiddle with the string if you're bored or anxious...
KINDNESS	A plaster
GENEROSITY	A penny Could be a chocolate coin
FAITHFULNESS	A ring

This can be a jelly sweet ring, or a curtain ring (there are nice brass-coloured small curtain rings available in good DIY stores – any kind of ring really)

GENTLENESS A blanket

If you have a keen knitter, they could knit a miniature blanket, or small squares could be cut from an old (but must be soft!) fleece blanket.

SELF-CONTROL A button

Everyone needs a button to press in case of emergency!

In this party bag are reminders of the power of the Holy Spirit and his call on our lives. With God on our side and in our hearts, we can learn to be loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, generous, faithful, gentle and self controlled.
Keep your party bag – and use it to help you to remember what is really important.

Let's affirm our faith together...

Do you believe in God the Father,
Creator and Sustainer of all?

We believe and trust in him

Do you believe in God the Son,
Jesus Christ who lived and died and rose again for us?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe in God the Spirit,
Who brings life to the people of God?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church
**This our faith,
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Amen**

Let us pray

Lord come to bless us
And fill us with your Spirit

Generous God,
We thank you for the power of your Holy Spirit, expressed in the lives of the disciples and in the people of the Church in every generation. We pray the world wide Church for our Diocese, our Deanery, and the faithful people of God in this Parish.
We pray for ourselves, asking that we may always be open to the Spirit's prompting in our lives, that we may be strengthened to serve you better.
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.

Be with us in times of great change and confusion and help us to see you at work in our Churches, our community and our world. Help us to trust that you have plans for us that are better than any we could imagine for ourselves. Keep us safe and patient in these times of uncertainty and teach us the ways of your kingdom.

Lord, come to bless us

and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the peace of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to keep us confident of your love wherever you call us. We pray for all who are exploring a call to ordination, Readership training, or discerning your will in any way for their lives at the moment. For those waiting for baptism, confirmation or marriage and for those expecting children. Keep all our eyes fixed on you, in the sure and certain hope of your unchanging nature, whatever life may hold.

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. We pray for all we know who suffer in body, mind and spirit – for Jim and Sheila, Rosemary, Val, Adam, Emma, Alice and Amy, Wendy, and all those whose suffering is known to you alone., Bring healing, hope and faith where there is despair. And comfort and peace to all who grieve. We pray for the souls of Mick Broadsmith, Bob Pearcey and Margaret Whitely – may they rest in peace and rise in glory. Help us to understand that you hold the whole of creation in your loving arms, and that there is nothing on earth that can separate us from that love.

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 to do. Use us to transform our Churches and our communities. Help us to embrace the gifts you have given us, and to reach out with courage and compassion to those in need. Help us to build our Church community and our lives on the rock that is Jesus, in steadfast prayer and in communion with one another.

Lord, come to bless us

and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the breath of your Holy Spirit, given to us by the risen Lord.

We ask you to keep the whole Church, living and departed, in the joy of eternal life.

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, and make us one in heart and mind to serve you with joy for ever.

Merciful Father:

**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

From far and wide God calls us together,
heirs of the promise of the spirit of peace
The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you

**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, til 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.**

**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.**

**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.**

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Let us pray together as our Saviour taught us
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power,**

**and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Spirit of God lead us into life,
Give us grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
And strengthen us to proclaim the words and works of God.
And the blessing...

Let us live our lives in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

