

twelvebaskets



PENTECOST C

A complete Sunday service ready to use
for worship and inspire ideas in your church

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Pentecost Sunday - Year C
5th June 2022



Order of Service

Call to worship

Hymn:

726 STF – Come to us, creative Spirit OR

570 STF – As we gather, Father, seal us

Opening Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

Hymn:

439 STF – Abba Father, let me be yours and yours alone

72 STF – Father God, I wonder how I managed to exist without the knowledge of your parenthood

Readings: Acts 2:1-21; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17

Hymn:

369 STF – Baptise us with your Spirit OR

639 STF – Through the love of God our Saviour

Reflections on the readings

Hymn:

393 STF – She sits like a bird, brooding on the waters OR

372 STF – Come down O love divine

Intercessions

Offering / collection

Blessing the offering

Hymn:

389 STF – Like the murmur of the dove's song OR

503 STF – Love divine, all love's excelling

Blessing

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Call to worship

The Spirit is here,
And God is Spirit.
As we open our minds, our hearts and our eyes,
In worship on this Pentecost Sunday,
Come amongst us, Lord God,
By your Spirit.

Amen.¹

Hymn:

726 STF – Come to us, creative Spirit OR
570 STF – As we gather, Father, seal us

Opening Prayers

God of wind and God of fire
descend on this place we pray
Stir up the embers of our faith
Empower us to be the Church
that you would have us be
Grant us a faith that is strong
when doubts assail us
A faith that is courageous
when people challenge us
A faith that is powerful
when called to witness
A faith that endures
when all else fails us
God of wind and God of fire
Descend on this place we pray.

God of Pentecost
of new beginnings
revival and re-birth
Forgive our luke-warmness
in sharing Good News
Forgive our reluctance
to speak out though
our hearts condemn us
Blow through the cobwebs
Sweep away all
that might hamper us
And by your Spirit
this Pentecost

¹ Call to Worship written by Tim Baker

Revive us!
Amen.²

We say together the Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

Who likes Holidays? This year for the Queen's special Jubilee we can have an extra time of holiday to celebrate and have a party in her honour. Parties were common in history and in and around the time Jesus lived too.

It was fifty days since Jesus had risen from the dead on Easter morning. That day was also fifty days after the Jewish celebration of Passover. For the Jewish people, this was another big holiday! It was called Pentecost. People had come to Jerusalem from many different countries to celebrate the holiday. Can you imagine the scenes? Though as you expect Jesus's friends the disciples, (you remember those ones who were with Jesus in the latter years of his life) those friends were still very sad and scared.

Now Jesus' disciples were on their own. They knew Jesus had given them a job to do. They were supposed to keep doing Jesus' work in the world. Jesus's friends were scared to go outside. They didn't want to get arrested. They didn't want people to hurt them.

Now the Bible passage we read tells us that all these friends were in the same room together. Then, all of a sudden, God sent the Holy Spirit to give them power to teacher others about Jesus. Now, they couldn't see the Holy Spirit, so how did they know the Holy Spirit was there?

The Bible tells is that they knew the Holy Spirit was there because they could hear the sound of a mighty rushing wind coming from heaven. Almost like having a loud fan in the room! Then something extra amazing happened. The bible tells us that they saw what seemed to be flaming tongues of fire that came and rested on their heads. They couldn't see the Holy Spirit but they could see the flaming tongues.

After this had happened they felt the Holy Spirit was inside of them. This gave them the ability to speak in languages they didn't know before. This meant they could tell lots of people about Jesus. Isn't that amazing?

Prayer- God when we feel scared and alone, let us remember we to have the Holy Spirit.
Amen.³

² Opening prayers taken from Prayers for Pentecost by John Birch

³ All Age Talk written by Matthew Forsyth

Hymn:

439 STF – Abba Father, let me be yours and yours alone

72 STF – Father God, I wonder how I managed to exist without the knowledge of your parenthood

Readings: Acts 2:1-21; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17

Hymn:

369 STF – Baptise us with your Spirit OR

639 STF – Through the love of God our Saviour

Reflections on the reading

Let's listen to this poem, 'Out and About':

[Or you could play the video available to download from <https://www.methodist.org.uk/jubilee/>].

Let us pray each and every day.

Let us pray as a way to say that we don't believe that life is somehow meaningless, feeling-less, healing-less.

And you're welcome, whatever you're dealing with.

But what if there is a great big unless?

Just waiting for a fearless few to leave behind the pew.

Talk to the folks in the checkout queue.

Who knew?

They are ready to listen anew.

To hope along with you.

So open up and listen out.

It's time to get out and about.

God's calling you out and about.

God's already out and about.

This is not about standing on the corner to shout or sandwich boards or hordes of people flooding in on Sunday.

It's about having a fun day.

Celebrate together.

Whatever the weather.

Welcome the stranger.

Not because you wish to change her, but simply discover she's an angel.

So open the doors.

Because it's been too long since we opened the doors.

The hinges are rusty, but the people are thirsty oh, so thirsty for the Spirit of God.

It's not so big or so scary.

We can all pray.

We can all say 'hi' to the guy next door.

Because it's where the story starts.

So open your hearts and take the good news out and about.

[Pause].

Pentecost is here – happy birthday to us, the Church! Today is a day for celebration, but also a day for an invitation into action, into change, into a different, better, more hopeful future.

Perhaps you've had a birthday recently where you've thought, 'this is the time to get that particular area of my life *sorted*'. Perhaps you decided to lose weight in your 40th year, or to go running more often in your 53rd, or to finally go on the adventure you've been dreaming of in your 76th. Birthdays are a great time for having a party, celebrating life so far, swapping stories, raising a glass to those who are unable to be with us, and eating lots of cake. But birthdays can also be a useful time for perspective.

'Where has the time gone?'

'When did I get to be *this* old!?'

Or even, the slightly more dramatic, 'what have I done with my life?!'

Today, you can rest assured that The Church, at least, is a *lot* older than you! In today's reading from Acts, we hear about the Spirit of God descending on the early disciples, fulfilling Jesus' promise to them that he would send his Spirit, an advocate for them, a prompter and an inspiration. We still grapple with who the Spirit is, and how She fits into the wider Trinity. The idea of a Trinitarian God is complex, and if you think about it for too long, it can give you a headache!

But what we can see, every day, is the impact of the Spirit, the way the Spirit is at work in and through us, and changing the world around us. That's why we celebrate Pentecost as the birthday of the Church – because of the Spirit falling on those early disciples, the Church was born! And yes, the last 2,000 years haven't always been easy for the church, we've made plenty of mistakes along the way...but the Church has been and continues to be a blessing to so many. Think of the billions of people who have worshipped God in Church buildings. Think of the hundreds of billions of meals prepared and served in, or taken out from, church buildings – often to those who would not otherwise have been fed. Think of the way our church communities are still a lifeline to many. And think of the impact the church has had around the world – founding amazing movements and organisations that have fought for justice, from the anti-slavery movement right through to our own partners and friends at All We Can – the international development agency of the Methodist Church today.

The Spirit is still at work, in and through us. And we have to listen to her voice, be aware of her prompting. That's what the poem that we began our reflection with is all about – listening to the Spirit's invitation to get 'out and about', to break out of the structures, systems and doors that hold us back, and head out into the streets, into our communities, with good news in our hearts, and discover that the Spirit of God is already there!

Are we up for allowing that bold, public, revolutionary kind of Spirit into our hearts today?⁴

Hymn:

393 STF – She sits like a bird, brooding on the waters OR

372 STF – Come down O love divine

⁴ Reflection written by Tim Baker

Prayers of intercession

Loving God, we ask for the gift of your Holy Spirit
To help us to pray as we ought.
Holy Spirit: help us.

We ask for the energy and vision of your Spirit
For those tiring in the battle against injustice and oppression;
And for those exhausted by the struggle with poverty and hunger.
[Hold a moment of quiet].

Holy Spirit: help us.
We ask for the hope and comfort of your Spirit
For those overshadowed by illness or pain
And for those whose lives are darkened by sorrow.
[Hold a moment of quiet].

Holy Spirit: help us.
We ask for the peace and joy of your Spirit
For the guilt-ridden and anxious;
For Christians struggling with their faith.
[Hold a moment of quiet].

Holy Spirit: help us.
We ask for the guidance and strength of your Spirit
When we consider how to use our time and possessions;
When we are tempted to do wrong.
[Hold a moment of quiet].

Holy Spirit: help us.
We ask for the love and courage of your Spirit
When we reach out to those who are distressed;
When we reach out with the Good News of Jesus.
[Hold a moment of quiet].

Holy Spirit: help us.
Loving God, we ask for the assurance of your Spirit
Making us aware of your presence in our daily lives:
In our relationships, our worship and our times of pain.
[Hold a moment of quiet].

Holy Spirit: help us.
In Jesus Name,
Amen.⁵

⁵ Prayers of intercession taken from Pentecost Intercessions by Christine Odell

We will now take up the offering.

Blessing the offering

Gracious God,
Accept these gifts and put them to use,
Show us how we can be a part of your Kingdom here on earth.
Challenge and change us,
That each of our gifts might be an expression of your love for us.
Amen.⁶

Hymn:

389 STF – Like the murmur of the dove’s song OR
503 STF – Love divine, all love’s excelling

Blessing

The Kingdom of God is justice and joy,
And we go out to seek that Kingdom,
To celebrate in that Kingdom,
To bring that Kingdom about,
In Jesus’ name.

Amen.⁷

⁶ Additional prayers by Tim Baker

⁷ Additional prayers by Tim Baker