

Service for Week 2nd – 8th June 2025

Pentecost By Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer.

Living God, we remember how you transformed the lives of your disciples: how, through the breath of your Spirit, you turned their fear into confidence, their weakness into strength, their sorrow into joy.

Come to us now, through that same Spirit, take our weak and hesitant faith and fill us with trust in your love. Help us to remember not simply all you did 2000 years ago but all you continue to do through your Holy Spirit in our lives today. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven.....

Amen

Bible Reading Acts 2:1-8, 11-17

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.

Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language?we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"

Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

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

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. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: " 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.....

Holy words, Holy wisdom,

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Last week we thought about Jesus's prayer and his promise to send a 'counsellor' which is God's Holy Spirit to be with the disciples and us after he had returned to God. On Sunday it is Pentecost –which means 'fiftieth' as it was fifty days since Jesus's death on the Cross which we remember at Easter. After three days Jesus was brought back to life by God and after meeting his disciples on several occasions returned to God (the Ascension).



Pentecost was when God's Holy Spirit came to those early followers of Christ. It is when that small group changed into a movement that went to different countries, then eventually across the whole world and became the Christian Church of all denominations that we know today.

After Jesus had ascended into heaven - how do you think the disciples were feeling? I think they were rather downhearted and depressed. They had been through the elation of knowing Jesus was alive –but then He had been seen for just a few weeks before He had gone – gone forever, returned back to God our creator. It was like losing him all over again- their leader – their great friend.

But then as they were gathered together in that room something extraordinary happened. We read in the book of Acts that –there was a 'sound like the blowing a violent wind' that filled the whole house. Then they saw 'what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them' All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and they began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.'

And that's the way that helps me to think of the Holy Spirit - like a fire in your soul- a fire that is burning bright within you, sustaining you- rather like the sun which as we know is our

source of light and heat –without it nothing would be able to grow, to live, to develop. The 'fire' of the Holy Spirit is what gives us our energy, our encouragement –it's what keeps us going even when at times our faith becomes weak – it is there always present, driving us on.

Those followers in the upper room – there they were feeling lost, feeling uncertain and afraid and perhaps there will be times when you and I are like that, uncertain about the future, overwhelmed by the changes in life. But then what happened? they were suddenly filled with a new purpose, a new energy, a new strength,

And that's what everyone really wants to find - the real purpose and direction for their life, and to feel they are loved for who they are- not for what they have. That is the message of Jesus and to enable us to be like that, we have as Jesus promised- the most powerful force within us-the Holy Spirit of God. – as individuals we are weak, but the Holy Spirit makes us strong.

Amen

Closing Prayer.

Loving God, I thank you that I can know you for myself through the living presence of your Holy Spirit. I praise you that, by your Spirit, you meet my innermost needs, filling my soul with joy, peace, hope and the power of your love. **Amen.**

Prayers inspired by Prayerfully Yours by Nick Fawcett