

Virtual Worship for Linton Team Churches,

23 May 2021 Pentecost

Please join us in worshipping 'together' wherever you are on Sundays at 10 am. However, if you can't use this material then, you can of course use it at any other time. If you are joining in this service as a group please designate one person as the leader reading the normal print with everyone joining in the text in bold type,

Grace Mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Please join in singing or saying the Hymn

Lord Thy Church On Earth Is Seeking (Lux Eoi)

1 Lord Thy Church on earth is seeking
Thy renewal from above
Teach us all the art of speaking
With the accent of Thy love
We would heed Thy great commission
Go ye into every place
Preach baptise fulfil my mission
Serve with love and share my grace

2 Freedom give to those in bondage
Lift the burdens caused by sin
Give new hope new strength and courage
Grant release from fears within
Light for darkness joy for sorrow
Love for hatred peace for strife
These and countless blessings follow
As the Spirit gives new life

3 In the streets of every city
Where the bruised and lonely dwell
Let us show the Saviour's pity
Let us of His mercy tell
In all lands and with all races
Let us serve and seek to bring
All the world to render praises
Christ to Thee Redeemer King amen

CCLI Song # 7007449

Arthur Seymour Sullivan | Hugh Sherlock

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Prayer of Preparation

Let us pray.

**Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful people,
and kindle in us the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Confession

Silence as we call to mind our sins and weaknesses, before confessing them to God.

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world and knows our every word and deed. Let us then open ourselves to the Lord and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**O King enthroned on high,
filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your name,
Lord God almighty.
In our sinfulness we cry to you
to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect for Pentecost

Holy Spirit sent by the Father
ignite in us you holy fire
strengthen you 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.**

Readings

Acts 2:1-21 The Coming of the Holy Spirit

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

“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.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

‘When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

The Work of the Spirit

‘I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, “Where are you going?” But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Psalm 104.26-32

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
There is the sea, spread far and wide,
and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.
There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan
which you have made to play in the deep.

*Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
And renew the face of the earth*

All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
When you give it them, they gather it;
you open your hand and they are filled with good.
When you hide your face they are troubled;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return again to the dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.

*Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
And renew the face of the earth*

Reflection

The Power of the Holy Spirit

Power is a funny word and taken out of context has overtones of domination, control and fear. Power can lead people to greater things

but also diminish, neglect and destroy. This is the birth of church and the power of an anointing and sending forth of the Holy Spirit to enable the early church to establish itself and grow. This is not the kind of power which suffocates and restricts but a power which transforms and enables us to live the Christian life in the ways of the Kingdom. A power not over people, but the power to live with people in love.

It is that empowering by God's spirit that enables us to live the Christian life in the ways of the Kingdom.

The fact that this was given to all peoples of every race and tongue at Pentecost blows wide open any mere thought of an in-crowd or a select group. God's out-pouring of the Holy Spirit is not exclusive to a select few, but quite the opposite, it is completely inclusive. We are told that as well as the Jews living in Jerusalem who gathered together, there were (and I quote)

"..religious men who had come from every country in the world"!

The story of Pentecost is striking in an oddball kind of way. It is such a completely 'out of this world' experience. It is strange and miraculous. If you can imagine yourself as one of the people in this gathering then I'm sure you can imagine their shock and confusion. This is of great significance because this is the springboard from which it is prophesied in the passage in Acts that this is what the prophet Joel talked about, "This is what I will do in the last days, God says, I will pour out my spirit on everyone. Your sons and your daughters will proclaim my message...I will perform miracles in the sky above and wonders on the earth below" Because the people have just witnessed such an incredible happening, surely we can believe the wonderful message now being told about the future?

God's Kingship was to explode onto the known world and would last in places and peoples never dreamt of on that day. After Pentecost, the stories of Jesus, the healings, the teachings, the types of encounters he had with the rich, the reckless, and the wronged became ours to live out from one generation to another. The Christian faith is not a mere set of creedal beliefs, nor a set of writings to be learned parrot fashion. The faith is an active living reality in our lives.

We can be assured as Peter quotes David saying, that,

“The Lord is near me and I will not be troubled, so I am filled with gladness and full of joy. And I, mortal though I am will rest assured in hope, because you will not abandon me...Your presence will fill me with Joy.”

We are empowered with a living and breathing presence within us. A spirit which moves among us in sometimes unexpected and strange ways. A spirit which helps us to bring peace, love, healing, change and life.

Remember how Jesus was tempted by the devil in the desert? The devil tested Jesus, made him look down across the land, a land that he could make his Kingdom and himself the King. However, power to rule was not on his agenda. The power of Jesus lay in presenting a different dimension, something that people found alien and yet alluring, Just like what the people experienced at Pentecost.

We worship a God of love. That is the agenda, the power of love. The Holy Spirit is our helper to be a witness to God’s transformative love. On that first day of Pentecost three thousand people said that they wanted to follow Jesus. Today we remember that Jesus died for us, when he went to heaven he sent the Holy Spirit. A story like none other. The amazing thing is this...we are invited to be a part of that too. So let us be united in speaking God’s language and to be filled with joy today, get ready to party!

Let’s celebrate!

Amen

Nicola Collard

Prayers of Intercession.

Please pray in the way that comes most naturally to you, either in silence or out loud we end with the Lord's prayer

Traditional

**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.**

Modern

**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 us our sins
as we forgive those who sin
against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Holy Spirit, living breath of God

- 1 Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord
to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause your word to come alive in me;
give me faith for what I cannot see;
give me passion for your purity;
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

- 2 Holy Spirit, come abide within,
may your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover every sin
in each thought and deed and attitude:
kindness to the greatest and the least,
gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my strivings into works of grace;
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

- 3 Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
giving life to all that God has made,
show your power once again on earth,
cause your church to hunger for your ways.
May the fragrance of our prayers arise;
lead us on the road of sacrifice,
that in unity the face of Christ
may be clear for all the world to see.

Keith Getty (born 1974) and Stuart Townend (born 1963)
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Thanksgiving

Father, while all your creation groans with pain like the pain of
childbirth, and longs to share the freedom of the children of
God, your Spirit pleads for us in groans words cannot express.

Father in heaven

We give you thanks and praise

The law of the Spirit brings us life in Christ, and sets us free from the law of sin and death.

Father in heaven

We give you thanks and praise

Like all who are led by your Spirit, we are your children. By your Spirit's power we cry, 'Abba, Father.'

Father in heaven

We give you thanks and praise

So by your Spirit we praise you for ever and proclaim your glory with all the company of heaven, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Hymn

Please join in singing or saying the Hymn

A mighty wind invades the world

- 1 A mighty wind invades the world,
so strong and free on beating wing:
it is the Spirit of the Lord
from whom all truth and freedom spring.
- 2 The Spirit is a fountain clear
for ever leaping to the sky,
whose waters give unending life,
whose timeless source is never dry.
- 3 The Spirit comes in tongues of flame,
with love and wisdom burning bright:
the wind, the fountain and the fire
combine in this great feast of light.
- 4 O tranquil Spirit, bring us peace,
with God the Father and the Son.
we praise you, blessed Trinity,
unchanging, and for ever one.

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Offering ourselves anew.

**O King enthroned on high,
comforter divine, and Spirit of truth
be near us and make us yours.**

**You who are the source of life,
You who are our treasure-store
give us your peace and end our strife,
for evermore.**

**Descend, O heavenly Dove,
dwell with us for ever
And in the fullness of your love
cleanse and save our souls.**

Based on 8th Century Orthodox prayer

We pray for God's Blessing

May the Spirit,
who hovered over the waters when the world was created,
breathe into you the life he gives.

Amen.

May the Spirit,
who overshadowed the Virgin when the eternal Son came
among us, make you joyful in the service of the Lord.

Amen.

May the Spirit,
who set the Church on fire upon the Day of Pentecost,
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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