

**Sunday 24th May –
Morning Worship for
Pentecost**

Led by Rick Nelms

<https://zoom.us/j/82311473640>

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM
OF CHURCHES



Opening Words

○ Lord, open our lips

And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us,

And clothe us with power from on high. Alleluia

Gathering Prayer

As we wait in silence,
fill us with your Spirit.

As we listen to your word,
fill us with your Spirit.

As we worship you in majesty,
fill us with your Spirit.

As we long for your refreshing,
fill us with your Spirit.

As we long for your renewing,
fill us with your Spirit.

As we long for your equipping,
fill us with your Spirit.

As we long for your empowering,
fill us with your Spirit.



Hymn – 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 illuming.

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.

Discendi, amor santo Bianco da Siena (died 1434)
Translated Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890)

Saying Sorry

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.

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' **Amen.**

Readings by Dona McCullagh

Acts 2:1-21

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² 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.

³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs - in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' ¹²

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' ¹³ But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ “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.
¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.
²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
For the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

John 20:19-23

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’

²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection by Sue Nelms, LLM

Today is Pentecost. The Church’s birthday you could say. The day when you could say that it all began for the apostles. Unusually for the lectionary our two readings today almost present different sides of one story rather than

being separate. The story of the apostles receiving the Holy Spirit – the promised Advocate who would be with the apostles forever.

In our gospel reading Jesus visits the disciples in the locked room where they were taking refuge and breathed on them, saying ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’ A gift and a challenge for the future but not quite yet because they remain in that room for the time being waiting and praying. They remain in the room until the Holy Spirit arrives in his own right – and what an arrival it was! Lots of noise, lots of flames too and some very strange happenings indeed. Divided tongues of fire descending on them and when they opened their mouths to speak, the words came out in other languages, none of which they actually knew. I can’t even start to imagine how all that must have felt but you certainly couldn’t miss it!

Strange things like this can happen to people, however. Some years ago my mother in law had an aneurism in her brain. The air ambulance just happened to be flying over where she lived so it picked her up and she was delivered to hospital incredibly quickly. She was rushed into surgery and as she came round from the operation to sort it all out we discovered that she could only speak fluent French, something she had never managed when she lived there! Fortunately for her, because she was now living back in the UK, this new skill faded over the next few days and she returned to speaking English.

Last weekend the Bourn Deanery held a quiet morning for ministers in the Deanery. The theme was ‘Taking time with God’ and we were encouraged to stop being busy, stop thinking what we might have to do, stop fluttering like a butterfly, press pause and simply spend time seeking God and, more importantly, spending time with him. This is what Jesus told the disciples they should do at the Ascension. He said to them. ‘I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’ So that is what they did and that is why they were locked away, waiting. Waiting to be clothed with power from on high. But I seriously wonder whether even they expected the arrival of the Holy Spirit in the form it took!

But why did Jesus tell them to take that time? Why did they not rush into their mission straight after the Ascension? They spent that time in prayer,

worshipping and that is surely the reason – to prepare themselves for God’s mission. Just as our Team needed to take time out to allow ourselves to prepare for our ministry on the Quiet Day last weekend, so the disciples also needed to take time out to prepare themselves fully for their ministry. We all need to take time, to put our trust in our God when we speak out or do things in his name. We cannot serve God without including Him – as the phrase goes ‘nothing in my name without me’.

However, at our Quiet Day we did not see tongues of flame or begin to speak in other languages. Why don’t we take a moment to think about how things must have appeared to the people that morning. The Bible says that there were Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem but it would seem that they did not hear the rush of wind or see the tongues of fire resting on the disciples. That reminds me of when Jesus was baptized, and the people standing there didn’t hear God saying that Jesus was his beloved Son of whom he was proud. However, the crowds did hear the disciples speaking in other languages and that is when they gathered to hear what they had to say. Unsurprisingly some were amazed and astonished and questioned what on earth was happening. Again unsurprisingly some people sneered and accused the disciples of being drunk, or filled with new wine. This probably says more about them than it does the disciples because Jesus’s followers were not known for drinking at breakfast so it would have been extremely unusual for them to be so drunk!

Suddenly, finally even, Peter speaks out. This is the first time that he has spoken out in the power of the Holy Spirit and what a difference it has made to him! We are used to Peter being a bit of a hothead, jumping in feet first and getting it all wrong, saying the wrong thing and getting the wrong end of the stick. But the Peter we have here is a very different person. He is speaking out confidently through the Holy Spirit. He knows what he is talking about and exactly what he needs to say. For the first time we hear him relating what is happening that morning back to the writings of what we today know as the Old Testament, the writings of the prophet Joel. Jesus has, in the past, pointed people towards the Old Testament texts, for example when he read the scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue saying that he has fulfilled those words in everyone’s presence. Today is the first time that we hear any of the apostles doing the same. They have been totally transformed by the presence of the Holy Spirit in them.

If we don't speak in different languages (tongues) or walk around with tongues of fire on our heads, does this mean that we today don't experience the Holy Spirit in our lives? Not at all. I would not be able to stand up here without the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit the words of the Bible don't always make sense. You can study it academically and get all sorts of really interesting theories but what does it all mean?

The Holy Spirit is the outpouring of God's love in us. Those moments where we get a little prompt to contact so-and-so and when we do they respond with the words 'how did you know?' Those moments when you look at someone going through a difficult situation and think 'I don't know what to say to them' but then you open your mouth and say the right words anyway. Those moments when you read a Bible passage and see something that you have never seen before. That moment when you feel down and go out into creation and are delighted by the beauty of a flower or the song of a bird.

If you think only of the loud noise and the tongues of flame then perhaps the idea of the Holy Spirit could be a bit frightening, but really it isn't. It is liberating and inspiring and comforting and the most wonderful way of God showing his love for us. Embrace him. Amen.

Veni Sancte Spiritus – Taizé

Veni Sancte Spiritus.

Come, Holy Spirit, from heaven shine forth with your glorious light.

Veni Sancte Spiritus.

Veni Sancte Spiritus.

Come, Father of the poor, come, generous Spirit,
come, light of our hearts.

Veni Sancte Spiritus.

Veni Sancte Spiritus.

Taizé Community (One Licence 00171)

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
**maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,**

seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
**God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,**

begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession prepared by Rick Nelms

Heavenly Father, thank you for the joy that comes from your Holy Spirit within. Thank you that you give Him as a free gift to all Christians, allowing each of us to say “Jesus is Lord”. Thank you that through your Holy Spirit come gifts, for the good of everyone, gifts of wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discernment of spirits, various kinds of tongues and their interpretation, and that some are apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. Thank you that the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, forgiveness and self-control. Thank you that, though we are many, we are one body, through Christ, for in the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body - Jews or gentiles, slaves or free - and we all share together in the same Spirit. [words from 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4 and Galatians 5].

Through the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Father, **Hear our Prayer**

Heavenly Father, in the Spirit we pray for the whole Church of Christ, all two billion who believe, through your Spirit, that Jesus Christ is Lord. Help us all to understand that the Holy Spirit who binds us together in love and forgiveness, is so much greater than that with which we divide ourselves into cliques and denominations. We pray for Archbishops Sarah and Stephen, for our Bishops Sarah and Dagmar, for our Team Rector Clare, and for all the ministers, churchwardens, PCC members and congregations of the Lordsbridge Team. We pray that the person called to be Team Vicar for Comberton and Toft will hear your call, and obediently come, and that the called person be recognised by those responsible for their appointment.

Through the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Father, **Hear our Prayer**

Heavenly Father, in the Spirit we pray for our troubled world. We pray for the leaders of nations, that through your Holy Spirit you will guide them in making decisions for the benefit of their people and the whole world. We pray for an end to conflict in the Middle East and between Russia and Ukraine as well as many other conflicts globally. Save from suffering, children and families, innocent victims and those who fight reluctantly as well as those filled with rage and hate. Bless the peacemakers, that they will be called children of God. Protect all who are affected by natural disasters and those caused by human greed and stupidity. Help people and economies recover quickly, sustainably providing food, clean water, shelter, sanitation and energy.

Through the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Father, **Hear our Prayer**

Heavenly Father, in the Spirit we pray for your beautiful, fragile creation. We pray for people, businesses and nations to learn to live in harmony with your creation, understanding that it is not infinite. We pray for protection and preservation of undamaged ecosystems, for conservation and regeneration of repairable ecosystems, as well as enhancing areas already ruined by restoration and regeneration of natural systems whilst providing food, renewable energy, living space and other necessities to provide all people with enough to live abundantly.

Through the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Father, **Hear our Prayer**

Heavenly Father, in the Spirit we pray for our communities, wherever they are. We pray for everyone who serves, as employees, formal and informal volunteers, enabling communities to function. We pray for people in education, health and social care, provision of necessities such as food, clean water, housing and energy, and all who clean up and recycle or re-use. May all who help us and satisfy our needs be aware of how grateful we are for everything which they do, and help those who take services for granted have their eyes opened so that they see and acknowledge the efforts of others. We pray for our families, friends, neighbours including those we find it hard to like and those who are our enemies. Help us to love our neighbours as ourselves and especially help those who struggle to love themselves to see themselves as you do, and to know that you love each of us equally and unconditionally.

Through the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Father, **Hear our Prayer**

Heavenly Father, in the Spirit we pray for all those who live with suffering

- Physically; through fatigue, pain and disorder, however it is caused
- Mentally; through distress and distortions of reality
- Spiritually; through your Spirit bring faith in you
- Socially; through loneliness, cold, hunger, homelessness and poverty
- Trapped; in loveless or abusive relationships, captivity whether justifiable or not
- Grieving; whether grief be new and sharp, or long-standing but still able to surprise us
- Running away from war, fear or abject poverty
- All other causes of suffering

Bring healing and where it is our role to bring love, peace and your Word, through your Holy Spirit, help us to recognise that calling and to respond as you would wish us to do, with open arms and hearts.

Through the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Father, **Hear our Prayer**

Heavenly father, by your Holy Spirit help us to understand that all Christians are saints, and can thus say as Thomas did, “My Lord and my God”. So, as you have made us one with all your other saints in heaven and on earth: grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may ever be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. Through your Holy Spirit give us confidence that we are given eternal life through faith as a free gift through the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Collect

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Being made one by the power of the Spirit
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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 forever. **Amen.**

Hymn – O Thou Who Camest From Above

- 1 O thou who camest from above
The fire celestial 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 the 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.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Notices

Conclusion

The Spirit of truth lead us into all truth,
give us grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
and strengthen us to proclaim the word and works of God;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen**

May the Spirit kindle in us the fire of God's love. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. **Amen.**