

## PENTECOST (31.05.20)

### GREETING

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you.  
**and also with you.**

God says: I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
**The Spirit has come. Alleluia!**

Christ says: I will ask the Father  
and he will give you another Counsellor  
to be with you forever.  
**The Spirit has come. Alleluia!**

Come, Holy Spirit, gentle as a dove,  
burning as fire,  
powerful as the wind.  
**Come, Holy Spirit, come!**

### WELCOME

### RESPONSORY

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.**

## **CONFESSION**

Living God,  
if we have lost the wonder of life in your Spirit  
and cannot remember its passion and promise;  
**Forgive us,**  
**and touch our souls with the flame of your life.**

If we dare to believe  
that the Spirit speaks in only one language  
which is ours,  
and we no longer expect to find you  
in people who are different  
and who have different ideas:

**Forgive us,**  
**and touch our souls with the flame of your life.**

When cynicism and lack of hope overcome us  
in the face of the realities around us,  
shutting the door to the power of your Spirit in every age:  
**Forgive us,**  
**and touch our souls with the flame of your life,**  
**which burns for ever with love for the world**  
**and its peoples.**

*(Silence)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The waiting is over.  
The Spirit of God,  
the healer, forgiver and lover of our lives,  
is set free in all the earth,  
Spreading the truth of the grace of God.  
Open your lives to receive the Spirit.  
**Forgiveness is ours!**  
**Thanks be to God.**

## COLLECT

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.**

## READINGS

*Acts 2.1-21*

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.”

*John 20:19-23*

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.’ 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.’

**REFLECTION**

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together:

**We believe in a loving God,  
whose Word sustains our lives  
and the work of our hands in the world.**

**We believe in God's Son amongst us,  
sowing the seed of life's renewal.  
He lived with the poor  
to show the meaning of love.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit of life,  
making us one with God,  
renewing our strength with her own.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Come, Holy Spirit.  
Come, loving Jesus.  
Come, glorious God.  
Come among us and hallow our prayers.

We pray for the places in our world where there is poverty, fear and war.  
May all who recognise your name hear you calling them to be peacemakers.

God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for young Christians – young in years, young in faith.  
May the faith we pass onto them be a reflection  
of the work of your Holy Spirit in our lives.

God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for Christians of all denominations,  
and for our ecumenical partners in faith  
here in Worcester Park and North Cheam.

May all who meet together to celebrate this Pentecost  
experience your presence and be filled with power and joy.

God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are ill, or in trouble, or in any kind of need.....  
We pray for the work of St Raphael's Hospice – for the staff and patients.  
We pray for those who have died, for those who are safe in your love...

God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves, our hopes, our questions, our needs, our dreams:  
Come, holy and live-giving Spirit, renew our lives with love.

God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Bright God of life,  
burn in our lives,  
make us clean and holy,  
warm us with courage and joy,  
keep us in the mystery of your glory  
all the days of our journey home.  
**Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

We are the Body of Christ.  
**In the one Spirit  
we were all baptised into one body.  
Let us therefore keep the unity of the Spirit  
in the bond of peace.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,

let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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.**

## **THE SENDING OUT**

*We light a candle.*

With Pentecost dawns the age of the Spirit.  
Now the flame of heaven  
rests on every believer.  
Strong and weak,  
women and men tell out God's word;  
the young receive visions, the old receive dreams.

As followers of Christ, we are called  
to live out what we proclaim.  
And so, we say together:

**Empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
we will dare to walk into God's future,  
trusting God to be our guide.**

**We will grow together in love,  
we will share our riches in common,  
and we will minister to each other in need.**

**We will pray for each other,  
until our hearts beat with the longings of God.  
We will carry the light of Christ  
into the world's dark places.**

## **BLESSING**

Carry the Spirit of God into the world.  
Lift high the bringer of truth!  
Go with open hands because the Spirit is received,  
but never held in our grasp.

And may the rays of every sunrise  
remind us of the sign of the Spirit's flame;  
the restful dark of night  
be the Spirit's gift of peace to us;  
and that which lies between,  
be safely held in the hands of God.  
**Amen.**

## **NOTICES**

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*Opening responses, Prayers of Intercession & Affirmation of Faith for a Pentecost service from 'Fire and Bread: Resources for Easter Day to Trinity Sunday' (Wild Goose Publications, The Iona Community, 2007), p.148*

*Confession adapted from Dorothy McRae-McMahon, 'Liturgies for High Days', (SPCK, London, 2006), p.44-5*

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*Blessing from Dorothy McRae-McMahon, 'Liturgies for the Young in Years' (SPCK, London, 2007)*