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PENTECOST B

19th May 2024

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

God of fire and flame,
God of light and life,
God of hope and peace.
The light of your love is here.
The fire of your Spirit is here.
The hope of a better world is here, in me, today.
Come, Lord Jesus, and make yourself known during this time of worship,
In this Pentecost season, I pray,

Amen.

Hymn:

395 STF – Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me - [YouTube](#)

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You may now wish to say the Lord's prayer in a version or translation that is familiar to you.

Readings: Acts 2:1-21 – [Click for reading](#)

Responding to the reading

On this Pentecost Sunday, Christians all over the world recall the transformative events of Acts 2:1-21, where the Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples, igniting within them a fire that would spread across the world. This passage is not just a historical account but a continuing call to action, unity, and renewal.

The arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is a moment of profound empowerment. Power shifts, to earth, to us, to human beings... To you! The disciples, who were once unsure and timid, begin to speak boldly in languages they did not know, reaching people of diverse backgrounds and nations. This week, reflect on how the Holy Spirit empowers you in your daily life. Are there places in your life where you feel called to speak out or act with courage? Consider how the Spirit may be prompting you to step beyond your comfort zone, to advocate for justice, to comfort the afflicted, or even to approach someone different from yourself with a message of peace and reconciliation. Notice the things that make you angry, or hopeful, or stir up a desire for justice in you. Is that a prompting?

Pentecost is also a powerful testament to the beauty of diversity within unity. The disciples speak in various tongues, yet everyone in the crowd understands them. In our divided and broken world, a country facing a general election that may continue to divide us, a time of much division and brokenness, this message is especially poignant. Reflect on the diversity within your own community. How can you contribute to a spirit of unity without erasing these unique differences? Challenge yourself to engage with perspectives that differ from your

own, seeking to find common ground and a deeper understanding of the Spirit's work in diverse lives.

The transformation at Pentecost is sudden and dramatic—wind and fire and a new ability to communicate across barriers. This event marks a renewal not just for the disciples but for the entire course of human history. This Sunday, ask yourself how you are being called to participate in the renewal of your community and your world. What needs changing, and how can the Spirit energise you to be an agent of this change? Are there initiatives in your community that work towards environmental sustainability, social justice, or educational reform that you can be a part of?

Finally, Peter's quoting of the prophet Joel in Acts 2:17-21 underscores that the Spirit is poured out on all people. On sons and daughters, young and old, servants of all statuses. This inclusivity is radical. Reflect on the inclusivity of your own practice of faith. How welcoming are you and your community to the voices of the marginalised or overlooked? How can you help amplify those voices in your own circles?

This Pentecost, let these themes challenge and inspire you. May the Spirit not only remind you of a miracle long past but also stir within you a fresh wind, prompting new understanding, deepening unity, and inspiring transformation that resonates through your life and the lives of those around you.

Responding in music

You may choose to listen to and/or sing along with one or more of these hymns as part of your act of worship.

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

499 STF - Great God, Your Love Has Called Us

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

313 STF - Thine be the Glory OR

400 STF - Wind of God, dynamic Spirit

Responding in prayer

Holy God, God of fire and Spirit,

God of light and life,

God of justice and joy,

We pray for your Church today,

Especially for the witness of your people in this, my community,

Breathe new life into us, as those first disciples rediscovered their passion and energy for you and for inclusion.

God of Pentecost and Easter,

God of Christmas and Lent,

God of Sunday morning and Tuesday afternoon,

I come to you in prayer for those in need today.

I hold a moment of stillness to pray for those known to me who need prayer this day.

God of here and there,
God of coming and going,
God of now and forever,
Grant to those in authority the gifts needed to speak clearly across divides, to bring healing and calm, where there are wounds and discord.

Amen.

Blessing

Go in peace, as one of the Pentecost people, and may the Spirit of God go with you.
Go in peace, and build a better world, in Jesus' name,

Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers

Monday 20th May

- The Holy Spirit is a much under-discussed element of the Trinity. Many Christians are not sure how to name the Spirit, how to notice her presence, whether to gender references to this mysterious Spirit at all...
- Today, as you pray, simply invite the Holy Spirit to be present. To be close. To show you an aspect of the Triune God. And make space to listen. You might like to write, reflect or talk about your thoughts and experiences with a trusted friend.

Tuesday 21st May

- God of all grace,
Today I am praying for those living in a place of open war.
There are so many conflicts around our world – so many going under-reported or misunderstood, so many soldiers, civilians and political leaders finding themselves embroiled in warfare.
- Today I pray for peace, and for healing, and for reconciliation. Come, Lord Jesus.

Wednesday 22nd May

- Today is the designated World Biodiversity Day. As part of the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN recognises the need for us to change our behaviours in order to preserve and encourage nature's instinct towards biodiversity. Human actions have led to the destruction of thousands of species.
- Today, God of the whole cosmos, show me how to live as you would have me live. Show me how to play my part in preserving your remarkable world. Amen.

Thursday 23rd May

- Go outdoors and find something natural: a stone, leaf, flower, or something else. Consider the ways God has made this thing and then reflect on how you too are wonderfully made by God. What does this mean to you?

Friday 24th May

- Today is Aldersgate Day, the anniversary of the day John Wesley has his heart 'strangely warmed', the beginning of series of events that led to one of the most successful revival movements in British church history.
- How are you open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit today? What reservations do you have, and what might it look like for you to pause for a moment, and invite God to move in your life?

Saturday 25th May

- Loving God, I know you have plans for me - plans for me to be a part of your kingdom and an agent of love in the world.
- This weekend, show me how to respond to the invitations I might receive. Help me to be open to the opportunities to share your love.
- In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.