

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 24th May 2026

Pentecost Sunday Family Worship

Hello, I hope you are well. For our worship today, our focus will be on our reading from Acts, Acts 2:1-21, Luke's account of what happened to the first disciples on the Day of Pentecost.

Let us worship God together:

Words of Scriptures

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. Acts 2:1-4

A gathering prayer

Jesus, we gather here today
waiting for you to come among us,
to share your peace with us
and to fill us again with your Holy Spirit.
We welcome you now
and ask that you breathe upon us
and lead our worship
that we might glorify your name together. **Amen.**

Prayer of Approach

Lord, on this day of Pentecost,
we come to you in awe and anticipation,
in expectation of our hearts being strangely
warmed. We wait on you, ready to receive the gift
of your Holy Spirit. Ready to receive your blessing,
so that we, in turn, may be a blessing to others.
Amen.

A prayer of invocation

Rushing wind, tongues of fire,
come sweeping through this day.
Engulf us with your transforming power
so that our hearts, minds and hands
are open again for what you send your Church
to be and do: witnesses of Jesus Christ
and proclaimers of your glory
as the one God, now and forever. Amen

G to G 30 There is a Redeemer

1 There is a Redeemer
Jesus, God's own Son
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah
Holy One,

*Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit
till the work on Earth is done.*

2 Jesus, my Redeemer
name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
O, for sinners slain.

Thank you, O my Father...

3 When I stand in glory,
I will see His face,
and there I'll serve my King forever
in that holy place.

Thank you, O my Father...

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A prayer of adoration

Almighty God, your being lightens our darkness.
 It melts our cold hearts and warms us to the core.
 It reveals truth to us and shows us the way.
 It leads us on and speaks in ways we can know and feel.
 Almighty God, your being is the essence of our being,
 the source of our life, the purpose of our living,
 the cleansing of our sin, the justification of your creation.
 Almighty God, you are the one we adore –
 faithful, unshakeable, for ever.
Amen.

A prayer of confession and an assurance of forgiveness

On this joyous day, when we are reminded
 of your powerful gift to the Church,
 the Spirit that you have breathed into us at birth,
 we praise and thank you, creator God.
 Without you as Spirit, resting upon us and within us,
 we would be just dust, drifting and without presence or purpose.
 As your Spirit stirs and forms us to be your Church,
 we remember the trust you place in us and our imperfections.
 We remember our quickness to condemn and our sluggishness to forgive.

Silence

Spirit of God, as you flow through the world filling creation and giving life,
 you come to know our thoughts, our words and our deeds.
 You know when they are lacking, when they are bound to the brokenness of the world,
 or attempt to limit all that you make possible.

In your mercy,
**come and cleanse our hearts,
 renew our willingness
 and guide our ways
 in Jesus Christ. Amen**

Since we have been justified by faith,
 we have peace with God through Jesus Christ,
 through whom we have gained access by faith
 into the grace in which we now stand.
 We can boast in the hope of the glory of God.
 Hope does not put us to shame
 as God's love has been poured into our hearts
 through the Holy Spirit, given to us all.
Romans 5.1-2, 5

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

On this day of Pentecost,
 we give praise to you, Almighty God.
 For the glorious gifts of your Spirit:
we give our heartfelt thanks and praise.
 For dreams and visions of life, light and truth:
we give our heartfelt thanks and praise.
 For tongues of fire and gleaming light:
we give our heartfelt thanks and praise.
 For lightening dark corners in our lives:
we give our heartfelt thanks and praise.

For warming our cold hearts:
we give our heartfelt thanks and praise.
 For all you enable us to do and so much more:
we give our heartfelt thanks and praise.
 For the frisson of excitement your Spirit brings:
we give our heartfelt thanks and praise.
 For the comfort the guiding the support it offers
 us:
we give our heartfelt thanks and praise.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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. 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.

Family Talk

BPW 586 Colours of day dawn into the mind

1 Colours of day dawn into the mind,
the day has begun, the night is behind.
Go down in the city, into the street,
and let's give the message to the people we meet:

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
open the door, let Jesus return.
Take seeds of his Spirit, let the fruit grow,
tell the people of Jesus, let his love show.*

2 Go through the park, on into the town;
the sun still shines on, it never goes down.
The light of the world is risen again;
The people of darkness are needing our friend.

3 Open your eyes, look into the sky,
the darkness has come, the Son came to die.
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,
but Jesus is living, his Spirit is here.

Sue McClellan, John Pac, Keith Rycroft. 1974
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The children go to Junior Church with our love and blessing

Bible Reading Acts 2:1-21 (NRSV)

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

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."

Peter Addresses the Crowd

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.'

BPW 282 Breathe on me, breath of God

1. Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with love anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.
2. Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will
to do and to endure.

3. Breathe on me, breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.
4. Breathe on me, breath of God;
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

Edwin Hatch (1835-89) altd.

Reflection***A moment for reflection*****BPW 444 Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us**

1 Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
you are one with us,
Mary's son;
cleansing our souls from all their sin,
pouring your love and goodness in,
Jesus, our love for you we sing,
Living Lord.

2 Lord Jesus Christ,
now and every day
teach us how to pray,
Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
this, in remembrance, Lord, of you;
into our lives your power breaks through,
living Lord.

3 Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
born as one of us,
Mary's son -
led out to die on Calvary,
risen from death to set us free,
living Lord Jesus, help us see,
you are Lord.

4 Lord Jesus Christ,
I would come to you,
live my life for you,
Son of God;
all your commands, I know are true,
your many gifts will make me new,
into my life your power breaks through,
Living Lord.

Patrick Appleford (1925 – 2018)

Our prayers of intercession

Come Holy Spirit
as the people first knew you in fire and rushing wind.
May we receive from you the life and power we need
to live in the world with faith, hope and love.
Come, breath of heaven

All: fill us with the love of God.

Come gathering and unifying Spirit of God.
Come to break down our barriers.
Come to gather us from all ages and stages of life;
from every place and speaking many languages.
Come to unite us though we are so different.
We pray for an end to false divisions based on culture, language and class;
of insiders and outsiders; of gender, ethnicity, race or sexuality.
We pray for love that crosses divides and sees our common humanity;
for love that does not speak of 'us' and 'them'
but finds your image in all people whatever their status.
And for the gift of love that is the beginning and end of all we do.
Come, breath of heaven

All: fill us with the love of God.

Come inspiring and in-between Spirit.
Come to the 'not yet' where reconciliation seems a distant dream.

Come to parts of our world where people are not yet able to live together in peace.
 Come to the 'not yet' of our hopes of creating a better world.
 Come to the 'not yet' of our search for equality, justice and freedom for all,
 remembering all who fight the powerful for justice,
 including campaigners for victims of abuse
 and those who have campaigned on behalf of the victims and survivors
 of the Grenfell fire as they finally get news of prosecutions for the tragedy.
 We pray that we would build communities where everyone is accepted
 and ask for unity where slogans divide us and the rights of minorities are under threat.
 We pray for the gifts of hope and patience
 as we look for your kingdom to come on earth.
 Come, breath of heaven

All: fill us with the love of God.

Come gentle and sustaining Spirit of God.
 Come and breathe your peace on our hurrying and rushing and calm our minds.
 Come to relationships that are fractured and friendships that are broken.
 Come to our uncertainties and our fears to breathe your peace.
 We pray for the love we need to serve other people and to welcome everyone,
 even people we do not like.
 We pray for patience in our church when there is conflict
 and the determination to work for unity
 and to truly listen to people with whom we disagree.
 Give us the gifts of respect and tolerance as you weave together our differences and make us one.
 Come, breath of heaven

All: fill us with the love of God.

Come life-giving and healing Spirit of God.
 Come to our emptiness and give us refreshment in our daily living
 and rest as half-term begins.
 Come to the lost, the questioning and the powerless, the hungry and the homeless.
 Come to the lonely, the sick and the despairing with the comfort of your presence.
 We pray for people who are ill and for anyone suffering in body or mind,
 remembering the victims of the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo,
 especially children whose parents have died.
 We pray for all carers and for medical staff and ask for gifts of caring and compassion in their work.
 Give us all the gift of service and help us to value each other.
 Come, breath of heaven

All: fill us with the love of God.

Come disruptive and disturbing Spirit of God.
 Come to change our hearts and lives.
 Come to challenge 'business as usual' and help us to be more adventurous
 and counter-cultural as we walk the way of Jesus.
 Come to move us to action even when (especially when) we find change difficult.
 We pray that we would be braver in speaking up for people with no voice.
 We pray that we would truly hear the voices of children and young people
 and the voices of people new to our community.
 We pray that corporate greed, self interest and focus on profit would be challenged
 by a message of enough and that water, energy and transport would be run for people not profit.
 Come, breath of heaven

All: fill us with the love of God.

Come truth-revealing Spirit of God.
 Come to show us again the best way to live and help us to walk in it.
 Come to all in power when lies cover reality
 and social media spreads disinformation and division.
 Come to shine light on our denial and delay as the planet burns.
 We pray for truth with kindness in our church communities.
 We pray for local and national leaders to confront the harm spread
 on social media platforms and for wisdom as we begin to engage with AI.
 Give us the gift of discernment to see what really matters.
 Come, breath of heaven

All: fill us with the love of God.

Come wild and wonderful Spirit of God.
 Come to spark joy at the amazing beauty and diversity of creation.
 Come to show us the wide reach of holy love that embraces everybody
 and holds us all together in the world.
 Come to lead us onwards and outwards as your unconfined
 and unlimited work in the world shows us.
 We pray for the gifts of wisdom and knowledge that we need to live well
 and love generously in all the uncertainties of this world.
 Give us the gift of courageous faith to follow Jesus
 at home, at school and at work.
 Come, breath of heaven

All: fill us with the love of God.

Come Spirit of the living God.
 Come to surprise us and fire our imagination with what is possible.
 Come and give us the gifts we need for today.
 Come to protect and guide us always.

All: Amen

BPW 486 Lord of the church, we pray for our renewing

1 Lord of the church, we pray for our renewing:
 Christ over all, our undivided aim.
 Fire of the Spirit, burn for our enduing,
 wind of the Spirit, fan the living flame!
 We turn to Christ amid our fear and failing,
 the will that lacks the courage to be free,
 the weary labours, all but unavailing,
 to bring us nearer what a church should be.

2 Lord of the church, we seek a Father's blessing,
 a true repentance and a faith restored,
 a swift obedience and a new possessing,
 filled with the Holy Spirit of the Lord!

We turn to Christ from all our restless striving,
 unnumbered voices with a single prayer:
 the living water for our souls' reviving,
 in Christ to live, and love and serve and care.

3 Lord of the church, we long for our uniting,
 true to one calling, by one vision stirred;
 one cross proclaiming and one creed reciting,
 one in the truth of Jesus and his word.
 So lead us on; till toil and trouble ended,
 one church triumphant one new song shall sing,
 to praise his glory, risen and ascended,
 Christ over all, the everlasting King!

Timothy Dudley Smith © Hope Publishing

A sending out prayer

Holy Spirit, send us out.
 Gentle Spirit, calm our fears.
 Spirit of truth,
 lead us to a broader vision of your work.
 Spirit of strength, in our weaknesses,
 make us strong.
 Spirit of power,
 show us when and how to act for you.
 Holy Spirit, send us out. **Amen.**

The Grace

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 the love of God,
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
 be with us all evermore. Amen.**

The Blessing

May the power of the Spirit challenge you.
 May the peace of the Spirit comfort you.
 May the presence of the Spirit enable you
 to live in love and service in the name of Christ.

And may the blessing of Almighty God,
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 be upon us and all those we love,
 this day and always. **Amen.**