

31st May Day of Pentecost: 2020 Facebook live

Welcome and Introduction

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Good morning and a warm welcome to the vicarage and to this service on the feast of Pentecost.

The Weekly sheet is on the All Saints Website together with regular updates about church life and various resources. Please feel free to 'like', and 'share'....we greet each other, we can also add own prayers in the comments....

Two readings: Acts and letter of Paul to the Corinthians, gifts that the Spirit gives.

On the website there is a special page for Pentecost with images, creations, stained glass windows, that illustrate the imagery of the Holy Spirit; the dove.... The flames....

Pentecost was the beginning of a new community, the church. The disciples left the upper room, where they had been hiding in fear, and went out fearlessly to preach the Gospel to the world.

They could not have done this if they had not received 'power from on high', that is, the Holy Spirit. We too need the H S in order to live as Christians.

..... Let us call to mind and confess our sins...

Lord Jesus, your Spirit enlightens our minds and opens our hearts. Lord have mercy.

Lord Jesus, your Spirit kindles within us the fire of your love. Christ have mercy.

Lord Jesus, your Spirit heals the wounds of sin and division. Lord have mercy.

Absolution: May almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent. Have mercy upon you. Pardon and deliver you your sins. Confirm and Strengthen you in all goodness and bring you to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
Amen

In a moment of silence let us bring to God our hopes and concerns for today and the days ahead....

Collect

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Reading Acts 2:1-11

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.”

Here ends the reading

New Testament reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3-13

No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

One Body with Many Members

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Here ends the reading

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love.

In the name....

It feels that we are on a threshold. This week we will move from one stage of lock down to the next with some young people returning to schools and more places opening for business. There is uncertainty, and some fear. Some consider it a dangerous moment. There are different views about how quickly the lock down should be changed. In one article one can read the virus may just die out ¹ and in another, one can read that a second wave is coming that may be worse than the first ². It feels like a watershed moment.

It was a watershed moment for the disciples as well. Before the coming of the Holy Spirit the disciples were closed off and living in the upper room. A great task had been given to them but they didn't have the energy or will to begin it. But after the coming of the Holy Spirit they were changed people. They left their hiding place and set out to preach the Gospel.

The disciples had known Jesus; they had seen the risen Lord, eaten with him and witnessed his return to God. Jesus had asked them to wait, 'stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high. The Spirit came with the sound of wind and tongues of fire. Wind and fire are symbols of great power – they are associated with the presence of God.

What had the Spirit done to them? It had empowered them. They were given the power that would transform the world. When people are empowered they become able to and willing to take charge of their situation. They don't wait for someone else to do it for them. They accept that they have to do something about it. The Holy Spirit empowered the disciples. Wind and fire symbolise the presence and action of God. The coming of the Spirit gave the disciples energy, enthusiasm, courage, love and passion to take the gospel to all people. The Holy Spirit would help them but not do it for them.

Christians pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit into their lives. We sing hymns inviting the Holy Spirit to come:
Come Down Oh Love Divine,
Breathe on me breathe of God
Oh thou who camest from above
Come Holy Ghost (the choir will sing after this service)

But do we really want the Holy Spirit to come into our lives?
Do we really want the empowering and the change that would involve?

The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism like a dove. It immediately drove him into the wilderness and he was tested. In a wilderness things happen, we have to face ourselves, see ourselves laid bare. Do we really want to be filled with that Spirit? The Holy Spirit makes things happen, compels us to engage with the world, to find Jesus in our sisters and brothers. Our eyes become opened to situations that we'd rather be kept out of sight and mind. Do we really want to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

Some times in church life people can prefer the safety of the locked doors, locked minds and hearts. Behind the closed doors we can find comfort in the familiar; conversations with our friends and the comfort of our private relationship with God. But if we seek to be followers of Jesus we know that no locked doors can keep him from appearing in our midst and compelling us out into the world.

To pray, Come Holy Spirit, is a dangerous prayer because it means that we must be open and vulnerable, willing to be challenged and changed, so that we find Jesus in others. In praying 'Come Holy Spirit' we will find ourselves standing with those on the margins of society, with the vulnerable , the homeless, the overlooked, the parents fleeing to give a better future for their children . Praying 'Come Holy Spirit', will mean we find ourselves in conflict with those wielding

power and influence in the world – with those who wish to maintain the status quo.

This is when Christians will be told things such as 'don't mix religion and politics'. A number of bishops have expressed views on the visit to the NE made by the Prime Minister's chief adviser. They came in for significant criticism and even death threats. This is not the time or place to discuss who is right or wrong.

My reflection and view is that we need the voice of faith within our communal life. The Christian voice is not just for Sundays. When we are sent into the world we are sent to be like Christ in our family and our working lives. The Christian tradition has a great background of thought and wisdom, and in this situation, ethics, to bring to bear on how we make moral judgements.

My hope is the Christians will have a greater voice as we reflect on the form of society and church that we need for our future after the pandemic. As at Pentecost, I believe we need different voices, different gifts and insights, as we evolve. A recent study published by the Harvard School of Public Health ³ has indicated the potentially lifesaving effect of church attendance – it says there are multiple mental and health benefits correlated with attending church once a week or more, including reduced mortality, lower levels of depression, higher levels of giving and greater optimism. This is true for religious observance across the faiths.

So do we risk that dangerous prayer of asking the Holy Spirit to come?

We have access to the Spirit- that empowerment – that leads to life and helps us grow.

May we pray - Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Amen

1 <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/04/23/coronavirus-dies-within-70-days-no-matter-tackle-claims-professor/>

2 <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/coronavirus-deaths-autumn-winter-uk-europe-who-kluge-a9514891.html>

3 <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/church-save-your-life/>

Intercessions:

We pray for all those who form the church, in its variety and richness throughout the world; that we may be encouraged and strengthened and our weariness constantly refreshed by the living spirit of Jesus. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for the world and its leaders; for its mistakes and tragedies, misunderstandings and confusion; may your active Spirit bring order, hope and peace. Lord...

We pray for the poor and hungry, for the blind, the downtrodden and those imprisoned; that God's spirit, alive in his people, will work his healing love.

We pray for a deepening of our own faith, more understanding of your will, a clearer awareness of others' needs and a greater desire to love as you love. Lord....

Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care those who are ill or in pain, knowing that whenever danger threatens your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe. Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord, in your mercy..

We pray for the elderly, for those who are in Care Homes, and all who are coming to the end of their earthly journey.

We pray for those who have died, for Edna Charity, those who have lost family members or friends due to the virus,

At the anniversary of death we remember

We pray for ourselves and our families, and for the week ahead....

Our father.....

Concluding prayer and Blessing:

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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

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.**
Filled with the Spirit's power,
go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!
Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!

Choir. 11 am .Evensong 5.30 pm, OoS on the website

Email sent, if you haven't received or would like to

Eucharist 11 am Tuesday Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2069378522?pwd=WkVWMUpZR01ieXE3dFFVK2ZVcHVkQT09>

Updated OoS on the website (covid 19 page) Ordinary time

Prayer Group 7 pm Thursday, Zoom
Prayer....apps, Thy Kingdom Come....

Coffee morning 11 am Saturday, Zoom

Access details have been sent by email

Sunday 10.30 and 5.30

<https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsPeterborough/>

Daily Hope the line, which is available 24 hours a day on
0800 804 8044, If you know of someone who isn't on
internet, let them know, ...

Online collection:

<https://allsaintspeterborough.org.uk/about/giving/>