

CALL TO WORSHIP

It's the day of Pentecost:  
The birthday of the church,  
And the coming of the Holy Spirit in power,  
Like a rushing wind to fill with life,  
Like tongues of fire to rekindle our life in Christ.  
Let us worship God who wherever we are.

OPENING PRAYER based on the words of an old hymn (TIS 407)

Breathe on us, breath of God, and fill us with life anew.  
Help us love what you love and do what you would do.  
As we worship this day, may we become like Jesus,  
Bringing healing and hope to a hurting world. Amen

SONG: This hour by Alison Campbell-Rate

Holy Spirit, come to us this hour, fill us with the wonder of your power:  
power to inspire, to set our hearts on fire, to live our lives for you.

Holy Spirit, come to us this day, every hesitation sweep away  
'til our hearts are glowing, 'til we're overflowing with the life you bring – with the life you bring.

Wake us from our sleep and fill our mouths with praise forever.  
Lift us to our feet to serve you all our days together.

Holy Spirit, come and fill this place thrill us with the wonder of your grace:  
grace that sets us free, releases us to be your people in the world – your people in the world.

Wake us from our sleep and fill our mouths with praise forever.  
Lift us to our feet to serve you all our days together.

Holy Spirit, come to us this hour, fill us with the wonder of your power:  
power to inspire, to set our hearts on fire, to live our lives for you live our lives for you.  
Holy Spirit, come, Holy Spirit, come.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess, O God, that the fire of your Spirit does not always glow as brightly within us as it could.  
Sometimes we almost blow out the fire

by making self centred decisions instead of Christ centred ones.  
by wanting comforts instead of your compassion;  
by seeking our own rights and advantages instead of your passion for justice;  
by holding on to our own judgments and opinions instead of listening for your truths.

Forgive us, God and open our hearts to you, that we may celebrate the Spirit within and among us,  
and so help bring your realm of peace on earth.

Assurance of Pardon

Like a gentle breeze, God fans the flames of our spirits within.  
Like a strong wind, God wakes us up to the need to forgive and be forgiven.  
Like a mighty storm, God cleans away the past and forces us to look at the future anew.  
Awakened, forgiven, renewed, we are free to dance with the Spirit. Thanks be to God!

READINGS: John 7:37-39; Acts 2: 1- 21; 1 Corinthians 12: 3b -13

SONG: Holy Spirit, living water (Altogether OK 359)

1. Holy Spirit, living water, flow in us and set us free.  
Cleanse our unbelief and sorrow, Wash our eyes and make us see.
2. Holy Spirit, come as wind and blow the dust of death away.  
Breathe the gift of life into us, Lighten hearts to laugh and play.
3. Holy Spirit, rushing fire, burn with truth and justice here.  
Catch our minds alight with passion, Perfect love that casts out fear
4. Holy, Spirit, come in silence, wordlessly to heal and bless.  
Be the heart that prays within us, Fill the void with tenderness.
5. Holy Spirit, blessed Wisdom, Teach us all of God's delight.  
Offer us the wine of grace And make us children of the Light.

Words: Elizabeth Smith

Music: Chris Chataway

### SERMON

We are only too aware of the importance of Christmas and Easter to our Faith and the life of the church. Let us not forget what a significant day Pentecost is. The day on which the first believers came alive in their faith, and the church was born. In some ways Pentecost is my favourite season as it reminds us of God's ongoing presence at work in the world and in our lives. There are millions of wonderful stories from around the world and throughout the ages of God working through people in powerful ways. Perhaps you might like to share a story of where you have seen God's Spirit at work and invite some-one else to share a story.

The disciples and their friends had been a small and vulnerable community but on the day of Pentecost they no longer felt either small or vulnerable. They were ready to take on the world.

In our celebration of Pentecost we celebrate that day when God poured out his Holy Spirit upon all people as he promised through the prophet Joel. We celebrate the gift of the Spirit and how it creates, upholds, and sustains the church as a whole. We celebrate How God has gifted us for the life we share together and the work and ministry we are called to do in Christ's name.

The Holy Spirit makes God's presence real to us bringing into our lives strength and support and teaching and comfort. The fruit of the Spirit at work in our lives is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22,23)

Through the Holy God also gives us gifts designed for the building up of the body of the church, and for the individual ministries to which we are called, and for our spiritual life together.

The prophet Joel, in his prophecy of the last days, mentions some of the gifts that have been given by God through his Spirit: gifts of vision and gifts of dreams; gifts of prophecy poured out upon our sons and daughters, upon our young and upon our old. Peter and the disciples on the day of Pentecost were enabled to share the story of Christ such that the Spirit of God enabled it to be heard by people in their own languages.

Paul - lists some of the gifts that God gives and explores with the Corinthian congregation how those gifts can be used and abused.

Spiritual gifts - range from the exotic and dramatic (speaking in tongues, working miracles) to the less dramatic of helping and administration.

This list of gifts begins with the gift of faith itself, the confession that Jesus is Lord.

It includes but is not limited to gifts of teaching; discernment; encouragement; hospitality; praying for others; the gift of the word of wisdom; prophecy; administration; helping; healing; and the gift of mercy.

Gifts that are given by the spirit that go beyond our natural talents and abilities.



for helping one another become stronger in our faith and better at being a light to the world.  
Help us to celebrate these gifts and to use them.

We pray for ministers, elders and leaders of churches everywhere that they may set an example for all of us in the way that each and every person, whatever their age might exercise the gifts that you give to fulfil their calling as followers of Christ.

Wherever we are, may we reflect the way of Jesus. In all things, guide us by your Spirit, and enable us to be witnesses to your goodness and grace.

We hold before you today O God those who need a special touch of your Holy Spirit

- Those who are sick and dying
- Those who grieve for the loss of a loved one, for the loss of a relationship, for the loss of hopes and dreams
- those who live without hope or present help in their lives
- Those who have experienced oppression and abuse in body or mind or spirit....
- those who hold positions of heavy responsibility particularly in our health system, the police and emergency services.
- our teachers and students as schools start up again.
- those who are full time cares and need time to rest and be refreshed.

Be with them Lord and with all we name before you in our hearts now.....  
we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

#### OFFERING

The Holy Spirit is at work in the world, the church and our lives.

We are invited to participate with God in fulfilling his mission.

We do this by making ourselves, our gifts and our resources available for God to use as God chooses.

Let us bring our offering of money as an expression of the availability of all we are and all we have to God.

Bless these gifts, O God, and bless us as we offer ourselves to serve you in different ways and to praise you in many voices. Send your Spirit upon us, that when we speak the word of your love, people may hear and understand as on that Pentecost day so long ago. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN: TIS 411 Filled with the Spirit's power

Filled with the Spirit's power, with one accord  
the infant church confessed its risen Lord:  
O Holy Spirit, in the church today  
no less your power of fellowship display.

Now with the mind of Christ set us on fire,  
that unity may be our great desire:  
Give joy and peace; give faith to hear your call,  
and readiness in each to work for all.

Widen our love, good Spirit, to embrace  
in your strong care all those of every race:  
Like wind and fire with life among us move  
till we are known as Christ's, and Christians prove.

#### DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit and the gifts that God has given you!

Go with the peace of Jesus in your hearts

Go with the power of the Spirit in your lives.

Go with the love of the father to set you ablaze. Amen.