



Informal Evening Worship for Pentecost

Sunday 23rd May 2021

St James' Church, West End



Welcome: Opening Sentence and Prayer:

1 In the beginning when God created¹ the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. [Genesis 1:1-3]

Heavenly Father,
through your Son Jesus Christ you empowered the disciples with the gift of the Holy Spirit.
May our hearts be open to the Spirit's renewing presence,
that we may share with the world the blessings of your abiding peace and love.
In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

Hymn: Be Still for the Presence of the Lord

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy one is here;
Come bow before him now with reverence and fear:
In him no sin is found – we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire; with splendour he is crowned;
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place:
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.
No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

[Words & music D Evans A&M 358]

[we hold a short moment of quietness]

ALL:

Spirit of flame, come, empower us.

Let our worship be once more a new beginning: cleanse us in your mercy, draw us ever deeper into your love, and accept our offering of praise and prayer: Amen

Reading: Ezekiel 36:26-27 [NRSV]

26 A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances.

Hymn: Breathe on me Breath of God

Breathe on me, breath of God, Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Until my heart is pure,
Until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am wholly thine;
Until this earthly part of me glows with the fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die;
But live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

[words: Edwin Hatch. Tune: Carlilse A&M 236]

Reading: Joel 2:28-29 [NRSV]

28 Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.

29 Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

Choir item: Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire [*John Cosin A&M 241*]

Words of St Augustine of Hippo (354-430):

Breathe in me, Holy Spirit, **that I may think what is holy.**
Move me, Holy Spirit, **that I may do what is holy.**
Attract me, Holy Spirit, **that I may love what is holy.**
Strengthen me, Holy Spirit, **that I may guard what is holy.**
Guard me Holy Spirit, **that I may keep what is holy.**

Hymn: Come down, O Love divine

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing.
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, 'till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity, mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul shall long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace, till he become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

[14C hymn 19C translation A&M 238]

Two readings from St John's Gospel:

John 3:8 [NRSV]

⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

John 20:19-22 [NRSV]

19 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." 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Hymn: O Thou Who Camest From Above

O thou who camest from above the fire celestial to impart,
Kindle a flame of sacred love on the mean altar of my heart!

There let it for thy glory burn with inextinguishable blaze,
And trembling to its source return in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire, to work, and speak, and think for thee;
Still let me guard the holy fire, and still stir up the gift in me.

Ready for all thy perfect will, my acts of faith and love repeat,
Till death thy endless mercies seal, and make the sacrifice complete.

[Charles Wesley A&M 258]

Reading: Acts 2:1-4 [NRSV]

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.

HYMN: Spirit of God, unseen as the wind

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind, gentle as is the dove,
Teach us the truth and help us believe, show us the Saviour's love.*

You spoke to us long, long ago, gave us the written word;
We read it still, needing its truth, through it God's voice is heard.

Refrain:

Without your help we fail our Lord, we cannot live his way;
We need your power, we need your strength, following Christ each day.

Refrain:

[Margaret V. Old A&M 389]

Pause for Prayer:

during which we will use the words of the hymn 'Spirit of the living God' as a refrain

Creator God, we thank you for the gift of your Spirit, and for calling us to be members of your church. As witnesses to your love, we pray that you will keep us faithful to our calling. Come, Spirit of God: **Bring life and hope and truth.**

Sung refrain:

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Lord God, we thank you for the rich variety of your gifts.

Help us to discover and use our gifts, and to rejoice in the gifts of others.

Come, Spirit of God: **Bring life and hope and truth.**

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of peace, we thank you for all who work for peace.

We pray for all who are at war with each other, and for those suffering the consequences of the pandemic. We pray for all working for the Common Good.

Come, Spirit of God: **Bring life and hope and truth.**

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

God of wisdom, we pray for all in positions of authority, in religious and secular life throughout the world. May we all live out our call to go out in the strength of your Holy Spirit to share the Good News of your Kingdom through how we live our daily lives.

Come, Spirit of God: **Bring life and hope and truth.**

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

We continue by sharing in the word of The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever.
Amen.**

Hymn: Father Lord of All Creation

Father, Lord of all creation, ground of being, life and love;
Height and depth beyond description only life in you can prove:
You are mortal life's dependence: thought, speech, sight are ours by grace;
Yours is every hour's existence, sovereign Lord of time and space.

Jesus Christ, the Man for others, we, your people, make our prayer:
Help us love – as sisters, brothers – all whose burdens we can share.
Where your name binds us together you, Lord Christ, will surely be;
Where no selfishness can sever there your love the world may see.

Holy Spirit, rushing, burning wind and flame of Pentecost,
Fire our hearts afresh with yearning to regain what we have lost.
May your love unite our action, never more to speak alone:
God, in us abolish faction, God, through us your love make known.

[Stewart Cross A&M 630 Tune: Abbotsleigh]

Final Prayers and The Grace

God of light, we praise and thank you for pouring out the Spirit of Truth upon your Church.
Disperse any darkness in our hearts, that we may more and more live as children of light,
we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Lord God, you transformed the Apostles,
From being afraid, they went out to boldly preach the Kingdom;
We pray that you will ever strengthen us with your Holy Spirit to do your will.
By the power of the same Spirit infuse our lives with your presence, that,
we may be transformed, and our lives become a flame of self-giving love;
Amen

**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all,
now and ever more: Amen**

