



Pentecost Sunday

28th May 2023

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the triune God, the Creator of heaven and earth and God's ownership of all things (Psalm 24:1). We recognise that God gave stewardship of these lands upon which we meet to the First Nations Peoples of this country (Acts 17:26). We acknowledge the cultures of our First Nations Peoples and are thankful for the community that we share together now. We pay our respects to the traditional custodians of this land and their elders, both past and present, and those who are rising up to become leaders.

Cantor: Thank you for joining our Service today, as we celebrate the outpouring of the Spirit of God at Pentecost, when the first disciples were clothed with power from on high. We welcome those watching via livestream. I invite you to stand to sing our opening hymn.

Opening Hymn: The Pentecost Prayer

When this earth was created,
It was God who spoke the word
And it was done,
Gave his warmth to the cold earth;
All was new and all was young.
Time had begun.

*Make me warm when I am cold,
Make me young when I am old,
Move me, touch me inside,
Let your love burn in me now.*

If I'm rough, make me gentle,
If my words are hard and sharp,
soften this heart.
If I'm weak, make me stronger;
Let me look to you for strength
To make a new start. *Make me warm ...*

If I'm deaf, break the silence,
If I'm blinded by the dark,
Give me your light.
If I'm lame and I stumble
Let me take your hand again
And hold it so tight. *Make me warm ...*

If you speak, let me hear you,
Help me recognise your voice
Everywhere.
If you pass. Let me see you,
Help me to know the face is yours,
Help me to care. *Make me warm ...*

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Minister's Welcome

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age.
Praise the Lord of our salvation, according to the will of God our Father
to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Sentence

Jesus said, 'For you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' (Acts 1:8)

Deacon:

Prayer of Approach

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, though Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Heavenly Father, you poured out your promised Holy Spirit when you baptised your disciples with power from heaven, empowering them to be witnesses of the good news of the Gospel; fill our hearts to overflowing, so we too may proclaim with boldness the goodness of God and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love, joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Deacon: You may be seated as we listen to the ministry of the word.

Ministry of the Word

The first reading is from the book of Acts Chapter 2 verse 1 to 21.

Rather than reading about the outpouring of the Spirit of God on the first followers of Christ, we will watch a portion from The Bible Miniseries and then continue reading until verse 21.

Watch this segment from The Bible Miniseries

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. ² Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. ³ Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. ⁴ And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

⁵ At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. ⁶ When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. ⁷ They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, ⁸ and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! ⁹ Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" ¹² They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. ¹³ But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, "They're just drunk, that's all!"

¹⁴ Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. ¹⁶ No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ 'In the last days,' God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸ In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike—and they will prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will cause wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below— blood and fire and clouds of smoke. ²⁰ The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and glorious day of the LORD arrives. ²¹ But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.'

This is the word of the Lord **thanks be to God.**

The Psalm for today is number 104, verses 30-35.

³⁰ When you give your breath, life is created, and you renew the face of the earth.

³¹ May the glory of the LORD continue forever!

The LORD takes pleasure in all he has made!

³² The earth trembles at his glance; the mountains smoke at his touch.

³³ I will sing to the LORD as long as I live.

I will praise my God to my last breath!

³⁴ May all my thoughts be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.

³⁵ Let all sinners vanish from the face of the earth;

let the wicked disappear forever. Let all that I am praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!

Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, **as in the beginning, so now and forever. Amen.**

The second reading comes from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 12 verse 1 to 13.

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. ³ Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

This is the word of the Lord **thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn: Spirit of the Living God

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. [Repeat]

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The Gospel of our Lord, according to John, chapter 7, verse 37-52.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

³⁷ On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! ³⁸ Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'" ³⁹ (When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.) ⁴⁰ When the crowds heard him say this, some of them declared, "Surely this man is the Prophet we've been expecting." ⁴¹ Others said, "He is the Messiah." Still others said, "But he can't be! Will the Messiah come from Galilee? ⁴² For the Scriptures clearly state that the Messiah will be born of the royal line of David, in Bethlehem, the village where King David was born." ⁴³ So the crowd was divided about him. ⁴⁴ Some even wanted him arrested, but no one laid a hand on him. ⁴⁵ When the Temple guards returned without having arrested Jesus, the leading priests and Pharisees demanded, "Why didn't you bring him in?" ⁴⁶ "We have never heard anyone speak like this!" the guards responded. ⁴⁷ "Have you been led astray, too?"

the Pharisees mocked. ⁴⁸ "Is there a single one of us rulers or Pharisees who believes in him?" ⁴⁹ This foolish crowd follows him, but they are ignorant of the law. God's curse is on them!" ⁵⁰ Then Nicodemus, the leader who had met with Jesus earlier, spoke up. ⁵¹ "Is it legal to convict a man before he is given a hearing?" he asked. ⁵² They replied, "Are you from Galilee, too? Search the Scriptures and see for yourself—no prophet ever comes from Galilee!"

This is the Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Message: Empowered to be witnesses of Christ's heavenly kingdom

Offertory Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy, holy,
holy, holy, Lord God almighty!
And we lift our hearts before You
as a token of our love: holy, holy, holy, holy.

Gracious Father, gracious Father,
we're so glad to be Your children, gracious Father;
and we lift our heads before You
as a token of our love,
gracious Father, gracious Father.

Precious Jesus, precious Jesus,
we're so glad that You've redeemed us,
precious Jesus;
and we lift our hands before You
as a token of our love, precious Jesus, precious Jesus.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
come and fill our hearts anew, Holy Spirit!
and we lift our voice before You
as a token of our love,
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah -
and we lift our hearts before You
as a token of our love,
hallelujah, hallelujah.

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Gifts and Offerings

Deacon:

Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

The Spirit of Truth comes to convict of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement. Let us then open our hearts and confess our sins in repentance and faith.

**Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love,
but we have broken your holy laws
and have left undone what we ought to have done.
We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.
For the sake of your Son who died for us,
forgive us cleanse us and change us.
By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Deacon: Please stand as we hear God's promise of forgiveness.

Promise of Forgiveness

You are now washed, you are sanctified, you are justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. Having been forgiven, receive now afresh, the Holy Spirit of promise so that streams of living water may flow abundantly in your life. **Amen.**

The Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, at the feast of Pentecost you sent your Holy Spirit to the disciples, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: empower us with that same Spirit to witness courageously to your redeeming grace and love and draw all people to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Prayers and Intercessions

The intercessor on the roster will prepare prayers for:

A prayer for the world ...

A prayer for all in authority ...

A prayer for the church ...

A prayer for our community, and those on our prayer list ...

Please join me in praying

Fulfil now, Lord, our desires and prayers as may be best for us. Grant us in this life, knowledge of your truth and in the age to come, life eternal.

We conclude by praying as our Saviour taught us:

**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.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Thanksgiving and Communion

The Lord be with you **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By His death on the cross, and rising to new life, He offered the one true sacrifice for sin, and obtained an eternal deliverance for His people.

Today we give you thanks that in fulfilment of your promise,

you poured out your Spirit upon us, filling us with the power of your Spirit,
giving us gifts and leading us into all truth.

You give us boldness to proclaim your gospel to our community
and to serve you as a royal priesthood.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and this wine,

and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,

we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

'Take, eat; this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks

he gave it to his disciples saying,

'Drink from this, all of you.

This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, we do as our Saviour has commanded;

proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Fill us anew with your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you,
Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

We who are many are one body, **for we all share in the one bread.**

Let us draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in our hearts with thanksgiving.

Communion Song: Take of my bread and eat

Take of my bread and eat, drink my new wine.
Take of my life and live, branch of my vine.
Let me befriend you now; eat take your fill.
Don't be afraid to dream; love has its will.

Take of my bread and eat, drink my new wine.
Be a sweet nourishment to good friends of mine.
Let me befriend you now; eat, take your fill.
Share with your people, that love has its will.

Take up your burden now, walk 'til you find
Just what the journey means;
walk while there's time.
Food for the journey will answer your need.
Don't be afraid to walk; love, my love will lead.

Take of my bread and eat, drink my new wine.
Take of my life and live, branch of my vine.

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Second Communion Song: Come as you are

Come as you are, that's how I want you
Come as you are, feel quite at home
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven
Come as you are, why stand alone?

I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous
I came to bring peace, not to condemn
Each time you fail, to live by my promise
Why do you think, I'd love you the less?

No need to fear, love sets no limits
No need to fear, love never ends
Don't run away, shamed and disheartened
Rest in my love, trust me again

Come as you are, that's how I love you
Come as you are, trust me again
Nothing can change, the love that I bear you
All will be well, just come as you are.

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Announcements: Please see the church newsletter.

Commitment to live out our worship of the Lord

Giver of life and love, we thank you that in this heavenly banquet you invigorate and refresh our hearts. Living in the unity of the Spirit, may we boldly use your gifts, and live yielded lives through your indwelling Spirit so that we continue your work in the world.

Keep us in his hope that we have grasped; so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name.

Most loving God,

you send us into the world you love. Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit.

The Blessing

May God the Father and His Spirit lead you into all truth, and may you stir up the gifts of the Spirit which were imparted to you, so that you may confess Jesus Christ as Lord and proclaim the joy of the everlasting Gospel wherever you may be; and the blessing of God Almighty; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you all ever more. **Amen.**

Deacon:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: The Spirit Lives

The Spirit lives to set us free,
walk, walk in the light;
He binds us all in unity,
walk, walk in the light.

*Walk in the light, walk in the light,
walk in the light, walk in the light of the Lord.*

Jesus promised life to all,
walk, walk in the light;
the dead were wakened by His call,
walk, walk in the light.

walk in the light...

We know His death was not the end,
walk, walk in the light;
He gave His Spirit to be our friend,
walk, walk in the light.

walk in the light...

The Spirit lives in you and me,
walk, walk in the light;
His light will shine for all to see,
walk, walk in the light.

walk in the light ...

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