

Worship for Pentecost Sunday - 25th May 2021
from Brian & Clare Kennard

Call to worship: "God is spirit, and they that worship Him must worship in spirit and truth"
(John 4:24)



Suggested Hymn: *Holy Spirit, we welcome you.*

HOLY SPIRIT, WE WELCOME YOU.

Holy Spirit, we welcome You.
Move among us with holy fire,
As we lay aside all earthly desires,
Hands reach out and our hearts aspire.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome You.

Holy Spirit, we welcome You.
Holy Spirit, we welcome You.
Let the breeze of Your presence blow,
That Your children here might truly know
How to move in the Spirit's flow.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome You.

Holy Spirit, we welcome You.
Holy Spirit, we welcome You.
Please accomplish in me today
Some new work of loving grace, I pray;
Unreservedly have Your way.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome You.

Prayer time:

*Be still and focus on the awesome God we serve:
great beyond all words, but revealing Himself
through His Word, and most clearly through the
Word who became flesh - the Lord Jesus Christ.
Express your adoration, worship and praise in
whatever ways you can.*

The Bible says, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"
(1 John 4: 8-9)

Let God speak to you about the attitudes and actions that need changing in your life. Confess to Him your weaknesses and failures, and receive His cleansing and forgiveness as He has promised.

Prayer for today ("Collect"):

Almighty God,

who on the day of Pentecost

sent your Holy Spirit on the disciples

with the wind from heaven and with tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel

send us out in the power of the same Spirit

to Witness to your truth

and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If you have a Bible of your own, please read **Psalm 104: 24-34**

Reading: Acts 2: 1-21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia,

Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ ““In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

²¹ And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved

Reflection: Who is the Holy Spirit?

At the beginning of Acts ch. 19, we read of a group of enthusiastic believers in Ephesus who, when asked of their experience of the Holy Spirit, answer: “We have not heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” (Acts 19:2). Over the centuries that have passed since then, it seems that the Holy Spirit has been thought of largely as a doctrine in the Creeds but neglected or unknown as a personal being within the mystery of the Trinity.

It is important to say that the Holy Spirit is not an “it”, simply a force in the world rather like gravity or magnetism that affect our everyday lives even if we never think about those forces. The Bible records the Holy Spirit as thinking, speaking, guiding and even as being grieved (that is, saddened or deeply upset - see Ephesians 4:30) Gravity may grieve you if you fall off a wall, but you can never grieve gravity. Why? You are a person with feelings, and

so is the Holy Spirit.

Maybe the simplest description of the Holy Spirit would be “God as we experience Him now on earth”. Scripture speaks of “The Spirit of the Lord”, “The Spirit of God”, “The Spirit of the Son” and “The Spirit of Jesus” to mention only some descriptions. Of course, what is really important is to experience and encounter the Holy Spirit in our lives today, challenging, encouraging, changing, empowering us to be the people of God in the here and now. So, let me ask.....

“Have you received the Holy Spirit?” (Acts 19:2)

Prayers of intercession

In your own words, remember before God...the conflict in Israel which is raging at the time of writing..those in authority in this country and around the world grappling with the present crisis, especially just now in India, ...all those “on the front line” whether NHS staff, transport workers, shop workers, the emergency services...those most personally affected by the Covid-19 outbreak: the bereaved, those seriously ill, those who have already lost their jobs.. the Church of Jesus Christ as together we seek to witness to the love and care of God in word and action....and the many other difficult problems humanity faces...and for yourself and your family. Remember, too, thankfulness!

The Lord’s Prayer (traditional version):

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
And 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.

The blessing: Now may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with and remain with us always. Amen.

Next Sunday - 30th May - the worship sheet will be compiled by Jeanne Moore.