

# **The Feast of Pentecost**



**Deddington Benefice**

**31 May 2020**

## **Welcome to our service for Pentecost 2020**

Please have a candle ready to light during the service.

A very warm welcome to our Comunion service for Pentecost, which takes place 50 days after Easter Sunday, marking the end of Eastertide. Pentecost also marks the birth of the Church because it celebrates the day that the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples.

At Pentecost we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit which transformed the fearful disciples into courageous witnesses to Christ. Just as the Holy Spirit brought new energy into the followers of Jesus long ago, he continues today to guide and strengthen our church, and each of us as disciples.

The Holy Spirit is very much alive in our world, giving new life and gifts of prophecy and healing to many. During the COVID-19 pandemic we have seen how the Holy Spirit has called people to service and sent them the necessary skills to help the sick and suffering. We pray today for all those who have been affected by the pandemic, and also for the safe and responsible easing of the lockdown.

St Augustine called the Holy Spirit “the quiet guest of our soul”. Let us embrace the coming of the sign of love between the Father, the Son and us on earth. Christ sent the Spirit to reminds us of “what he taught on earth”. May we walk in the power of the Spirit, receiving the gifts of wisdom, understanding, courage and reverence and the fruits of love, joy, peace and patience. May this Pentecost service bring new life into our souls, so that we are transformed and empowered by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

## **Introduction**

Jesus Christ, whom we worship, is our crucified, risen and ascended Lord and we have walked with him through his journey of love. We have faced the agony of his suffering and death on a cross. We have rejoiced at his bursting free from the bonds of death. We have enjoyed his risen presence with us and his revelation of himself through the breaking of bread. We have seen his return to the throne before which every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that this Jesus is Lord. And now, with the followers of his own time, we await the coming of the promised Holy Spirit, his gift to his people, through whom we make Christ known to the world.

## **Prayer of Penitence**

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world and knows our every word and deed. Let us then open ourselves to the Lord and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

## **The Absolution**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*Silence is kept.*

## **The Pentecost Reading**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (2.1-21)

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 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. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.  
The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.  
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## **The Collect**

Let us pray that the Spirit will work through our lives  
to bring Christ to the world.

*Silence is kept.*

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 - 1 Corinthians 12: 3–13**

Now I want you to know that if you are led by God's Spirit, you will say that Jesus is Lord, and you will never curse Jesus. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do. The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others. Some of us can speak with wisdom, while others can speak with knowledge, but these gifts come from the same Spirit. To others the Spirit has given great faith or the power to heal the sick or the power to work mighty miracles. Some of us are prophets, and some of us recognize when God's Spirit is present. Others can speak different kinds of languages, and still others can tell what these languages mean. But it is the Spirit who does all this and decides which gifts to give to each of us. The body of Christ has many different parts, just as any other body does. Some of us are Jews, and others are Gentiles. Some of us are slaves, and others are free. But God's Spirit baptized each of us and made us part of the body of Christ. Now we each drink from that same Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **The Creed**

Let us affirm our faith in God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit

**We believe in God the Father,**

**from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,**

**who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,**

**who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

### **Prayers of the Faithful**

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

Almighty God, our loving Father, we pray for your Church throughout the world: for her leaders, her ministers and her people.

We pray for Justin our Archbishop and for Steven our Bishop, for Colin, Oliver and Alan, and for all those called to serve you in these difficult times. May we, your people, be so filled with your Holy Spirit that, strengthened and renewed, we may proclaim your life-giving promises to all.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

We pray for your world. We thank you for the beauty and the signs of new life which surround us here. Give us the grace to treat with reverence all that you have created. We bring before you those places scarred by violence and destruction; those people who live in fear or in poverty; those who have fled from oppression or war.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

We pray for our own communities and give thanks for the mutual support and the loving care that we see around us, and for the fellowship that we have learnt in this changed world. We ask for wisdom for those entrusted with making critical decisions as we find our way forward, and patience for those who wait in uncertainty.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

We pray for those who are suffering: for the sick, the lonely and the bereaved; for the anxious; for those who have lost jobs and those who are struggling to make ends meet. In a moment of silence we remember before you those whose cares we carry in our own hearts, and those who have asked for our prayers.

May they, and all who are distressed, find comfort in the presence of your Holy Spirit.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

And we pray for ourselves and those we love: empty us, O Lord, of self and fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may bring forth abundantly the fruits of love, joy and peace, and glorify you day by day in lives renewed in the beauty of holiness.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

We remember before you those who have died: those we love but see no more, those who have died recently, parted from family and friends, and those who have died serving their neighbours. Rest eternal give unto them. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love.

Merciful Father,

**All Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace.  
If we live in the Spirit, let us walk in the Spirit.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**  
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## **Preparation of the Table**

### **Taking of the Bread and Wine**

Blessed be God,  
who feeds the hungry,  
who raises the poor,  
who fills our praise.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

*The president takes the bread and wine.*

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here  
**His spirit is with us.**  
Lift up your hearts  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and everlasting God,  
through Jesus Christ, your only Son our Lord.  
This day we give you thanks  
because in fulfilment of your promise  
you pour out your Spirit upon us,  
filling us with your gifts, leading us into all truth,  
and uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith.  
Your Spirit gives us grace to call you Father,

to proclaim your gospel to all nations  
and to serve you as a royal priesthood.  
Therefore we join our voices with angels and archangels,  
and with all those in whom the Spirit dwells,  
to proclaim the glory of your name,  
for ever praising you and *saying*:

**Holy, holy, holy, 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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.  
In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:  
**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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.  
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.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## **Giving of Communion**

### **Prayer after Communion**

*Silence is kept.*

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.**

## **The Dismissal**

### **Blessing of Light**

*The minister goes to the Easter Candle.*

Blessed are you, sovereign God, overflowing in love.  
With Pentecost dawns the age of the Spirit.  
Now the flame of heaven rests on every believer.  
Strong and weak, women and men tell out your word;  
the young receive visions, the old receive dreams.  
With the new wine of the Spirit  
they proclaim your reign of love.  
Amid the birth pangs of the new creation  
the way of light is made known.  
Source of freedom, giver of life,  
blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

*Please light a candle if you would like to.*

## **Commission**

For fifty days we have celebrated the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over the powers of sin and death. We have proclaimed God's mighty acts and we have prayed that the power that was at work when God raised Jesus from the dead might be at work in us.

As part of God's Church here in the Deddington Benefice and our wider on-line family, I call upon you to live out what you proclaim.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, will you dare to walk into God's future, trusting him to be your guide?

**By the Spirit's power, we will.**

Will you dare to embrace each other and grow together in love?

**We will.**

Will you dare to share your riches in common and minister to each other in need?

**We will.**

Will you dare to pray for each other until your hearts beat with the longings of God?

**We will.**

Will you dare to carry the light of Christ into the world's dark places?

**We will.**

*The Minister extinguishes the Easter Candle in silence.*

## **Conclusion**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Today we have remembered the coming of God's power on the disciples and we invite that same Spirit to drive us out into the wild places of the world.

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.**