

Feast of Pentecost

Prayers, Readings, Reflection

“Welcome to a special act of worship for the Parish Church of St Martin on this Feast of Pentecost. For those who are able to follow it as written or listen in, I hope it offers some comfort, encouragement and a sense of being together despite the distance between us.” Rev Jonny



Be still, and draw yourself closer to the God who rests beside you, before you and within you.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
All Amen.

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
All He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.

Lord Jesus, you suffered a cruel death on the cross for our redemption,
yet we have forgotten your pain
and stayed in the realm of the evil you defeated.
Lord, have mercy.
All Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you were raised from death to bring us new life,
yet we have preferred the comfort of the familiar,
and the empty promises of a sinful world.
Christ, have mercy.
All Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you have ascended to your Father and our Father,
your God and our God;
plead there at the right hand of God
for our forgiveness and entry into the fullness of his presence.
Lord, have mercy.
All Lord, have mercy.

God promises us a place with him for ever and he has raised us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. May we know his forgiveness and peace and the freedom to serve him in newness of life.

All **Amen**

Prayers for Renewal

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.

Be with us, Spirit of God;

All **nothing can separate us from your love.**

Breathe on us, breath of God;

All **fill us with your saving power.**

Speak in us, wisdom of God;

All **bring strength, healing, and peace.**

A time of silence.....

Let us bless the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All **Let us praise and bless God for ever.**

The Collect for the day

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.

All **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-13

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.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God**

Reflection by Pastor Wendell Griffen

The Holy Spirit is the answer to our concerns about resources; about how we will do what God wants done.

One lesson you and I should take from Pentecost is that the Holy Spirit deals with our resources issues. God provides the resources we need to accomplish God's purposes. We can trust God for those resources while admitting that we don't understand how God does it. Knowing that God has provided in past situations gives us confidence that God will provide what we need to face current and future situations. The Holy Spirit is in charge of supplying what we need.

That's a liberating truth that dispels the false economy of scarcity and replaces it with a sense of super-abundance. God has more than enough to meet our needs. God will supply all our needs in accordance with God's super-abundance. The Holy Spirit will distribute to us what we need so we can use what we receive to fulfil God's grace and truth in the world.

Anyone who is out of touch with the Holy Spirit can't realize this truth. Because they don't understand God's grace, they try to hoard for themselves and fear that others will take what they have. They live and act as if God hasn't given, won't provide, or doesn't have enough sense or stuff to provide. That religion is not Spirit-led, Spirit-fed, or Spirit-bred. It is religion based on personal power, not God's Spirit.

This may explain why many religious people claim to be social and economic conservatives. Somehow they've missed the message of Pentecost. They've missed the communitarian life that we read about in Acts. They've missed the meaning of many people being fed by Jesus with a boy's lunch. They've missed the meaning of Lazarus being raised from the dead. They don't understand that the same Spirit that empowered Jesus to provide free healing in his time, makes healing available and free even in our time.

People who become religious without the Holy Spirit may become "conservative" because they don't live in the power and under the influence of God's super-abundant grace. Truth for them is narrow. Diversity is dangerous. They are disciples of scarcity, not super-abundant grace and truth. They fear the extravagant grace of God that Jesus exemplified and Pentecost displayed.

There's nothing "conservative" about God's grace. The Holy Spirit that blessed a boy's lunch so that thousands were fed with leftovers to spare can't be the basis for "austerity" approaches to living that shuts down welfare services for vulnerable people. We have a liberating faith because God is generous in forgiveness, generous in deliverance, generous in salvation, and generous in the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit enables us to transcend our differences as we glorify God. God does not demand that we become the same in order to be united. We can be in communion with each other and with God even in our diversity. The Holy Spirit bridges generational, gender, class, and cultural differences.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are confirmed as followers of Jesus Christ. By the presence of the Holy Spirit, we have confidence to act as agents of God's grace and truth in our time and place. Because of the Holy Spirit we can be sure that God will supply what we need to fulfil God's plans for redemption, resurrection, and reconciliation.

This Pentecost Sunday, we remember that we are followers of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us live and act with confidence in our calling and authority to fulfil the will of God in our time and place. Because the Spirit leads us. The Spirit equips and liberates us. The Spirit unites us and transforms us. The Spirit makes us the Church to the Glory of God.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Pray for one another – those in our church community

Pray for the Parish, the Island and the World

Pray for the sick, the isolated, the anxious and depressed

Pray for the dying, and those who mourn

Pray for yourselves, and for your own needs

Lord, come to bless us

All and fill us with your Spirit

The Intercessions may end as follows

Generous God,

you sent your Holy Spirit upon your Messiah at the river
Jordan,

and upon the disciples in the upper room:

in your mercy fill us with your Spirit,

All hear our prayer,

and make us one in heart and mind

to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.

The Peace

God has made us one in Christ.

He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to
come,

has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All and also with you.

Let us pray with confidence, as our Saviour taught us
All **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.

The Lord is here
All **His Spirit is with us**

May the Spirit,
who hovered over the waters when the world was created,
breathe into you the life he gives.

May the Spirit,
who overshadowed the Virgin when the eternal Son came
among us, make you joyful in the service of the Lord.

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.

And the Blessing of God almighty; the Father, the Son and
the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always
All **Amen**

Filled with the Spirit's power, go in the light and peace of
Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!
All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**