

Dear all

We are approaching the feast of Pentecost, or Whitsun in old money! Pentecost, of course, is the feast when we remember the Holy Spirit coming upon the disciples in power – *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.* (Acts 2: 2-3). Christians have argued about the significance of this ever since! It was not their first encounter with the Holy Spirit. In John 20:22 we read that Jesus *breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit...”* But, at Pentecost, something very special happened. Nothing would ever be the same again.

In the days between Ascension and Pentecost, we pray “come, Holy Spirit”. I wonder what we expect will happen. What difference would it make in our lives, and in the life of the church, if we really allowed that prayer to be answered!

Here are the details of the service for Sunday morning. Unfortunately, as you may have heard, while the rest of society have moved a stage forward out of lockdown from 17<sup>th</sup> May, for some bizarre reason, government guidelines regarding amateur choirs have actually regressed a step. Despite their being no evidence for the need for change, we are now required to limit our choir to 6, including during practices. A big thanks to all the stalwart members of the choir who have helped us with our worship recently, and for Chris for navigating these unknown waters so well. We will continue with the slightly more limited numbers (we were working around 7-8, but with more able to attend practice, spread out through the church).

The readings for tomorrow’s service will be Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Acts 2: 1-21; and John 15: 26-27, 16: 4b-15.

We will be singing the hymns ‘Come down, O Love Divine’ and ‘Holy Spirit, come, confirm us’.

[🎵 Hymn | Come down, O Love divine | with LYRICS - YouTube](#)

[Holy Spirit, Come, Confirm Us - YouTube](#)

The choir will be singing the anthem *Locus iste* by Anton Bruckner.

[Anton Brucker - Locus iste - The Sixteen - YouTube](#)

The Psalm for the day is Psalm 104: 26-37.

Firstly, Anglican chant, from our own cathedral (our section starts at around 4:35):

[Psalm 104 - Praise the Lord, o My Soul - Lincoln - Anglican Cathedral - YouTube](#)

The stunning version from Prince Philip’s funeral service:

[Psalm 104 - Prince Philip Funeral Service - YouTube](#)

Amy Grant’s version, with some beautiful images:

[Psalm 104 - YouTube](#)

A version in Hebrew (the words come in about 2:00).

A children's activity sheet can be downloaded from the Bible Society here:

[The-Helper-Arrives.pdf \(biblesociety.org.uk\)](#)

Some prayers for Pentecost from Nick Fawcett (Link: [Some prayers today for Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, taken from Prayers for All Seasons \(books 1 and 2\) - Nick Fawcett \(devotional and reflective writer\)](#))

Holy Spirit,  
we rejoice that, as you came to the Apostles on that day of Pentecost,  
so you keep on coming to us today;  
making yourself known in different ways,  
at different times  
and in different places,  
but always there,  
constantly moving in our lives.

For your presence at work within us,

**we give you our praise.**

You come when we are most aware of our need –  
bringing comfort in times of sorrow,  
courage in times of fear,  
peace in times of trouble  
and hope in times of despair.

For your presence at work within us,

**we give you our praise.**

You come when we forget our need of you –  
challenging,  
searching,  
refining,  
cleansing;  
inspiring us to greater vision and renewed commitment.

For your presence at work within us,

**we give you our praise.**

You come to us in power –  
releasing unimagined potential,  
imparting unexpected gifts,  
cultivating undreamed-of fruits.

For your presence at work within us,

**we give you our praise.**

You come to us in quietness –  
coaxing us to new initiatives,  
nurturing confidence  
and deepening our faith.

For your presence at work within us,

**we give you our praise.**

Holy Spirit,  
we welcome you again –  
opening our minds to your guidance,  
our hearts to your love  
and our lives to your purpose.

Breathe upon us,  
fill and enthuse us,  
and send us out in the service of Christ.  
For your presence at work within us,  
**we give you our praise.**  
**Amen.**

**The Bible study group** continues on Thursday, and we will be looking at Mark's Gospel, chapter 9. New members are welcome. It is not a particularly academic study, though occasional insights are shared. More important is the discussion of how the text impacts and applies to our everyday Christian life. The link is <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8109399155?pwd=STVVTU44RzJxTFFHbTY1MnI0bjJ2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 810 939 9155  
Passcode: 1w2C9a

A selection of anthems recommended for Pentecost:

[If ye love me \(Thomas Tallis\) - The King's Singers - YouTube](#)

[If Ye Love Me \(Bob Chilcott\) - YouTube](#)

[Listen Sweet Dove - YouTube](#) by Bill Ives

[Dum Complerentur - YouTube](#) dum complerentur dies pentecostes by Palestrina

[The spirit of the Lord is upon me - Elgar, John Rutter, The Cambridge Singers, Andrew Lucas - YouTube](#)

Or for something completely different, for those who like Celtic/folk/prog rock fusion... (the wild goose is a Celtic image of the Holy Spirit). Apologies for the ghastly intro – the real bit comes in at about 0:27!

[Iona - Flight Of The Wild Goose \(Live/1990\) - YouTube](#)

Finally, for a bit of fun, how many of these do you recognise?

<https://fb.watch/5ELnNKZxhq/>

Stay safe.

Blessings and love

Mark