

Pentecost Sunday May 31st 2020

Welcome to our service for Pentecost. You may like to have a candle ready to light for our prayers later in the service. The links to the music can be found by clicking on the [blue links](#)

**God has set this day before us,
A day set apart, a day of rest and praise.**

**God has set our lives before us,
A span of years in which we love, and learn, and
serve.**

**God has set His seal upon our hearts,
So that we might live fully in deep love.**

Let us worship God.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

We will start by singing Spirit of God unseen as the wind and the link can be found [here](#):

Today is Pentecost which comes 50 days after Easter Sunday and commemorates the descent of the holy spirit upon the apostles and followers whilst they were in Jerusalem to celebrate The Feast of the Weeks.

We use different symbols for the Holy Spirit, I hope most of you will have received a paper dove with your News letter for you to hang in your window. The dove is from the baptism of Jesus where the Holy Spirit was said to descend in the form of a dove as the voice of God.



We also use flames, on the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles as tongues of fire.

Our young people and Pilots have been colouring and making flames which can be seen on display in the church garden when you are out for your daily exercise!



The Holy Spirit is the one who empowers followers of Jesus with spiritual gifts and power that enables the proclamation of Jesus Christ and the power that brings the conviction of faith.

Let us pray:



**Come Holy Spirit fill us with your peace
Come Holy Spirit unite us in our worship
Come Holy Spirit raise us by your power
Come Holy Spirit come now.**

**Pour out your Spirit, loving Lord,
That we may hear your prophetic word.
That we may know how to live according to your ways
That we may worship you in Spirit and truth**

God your love is unconditional

Your gifts are offered with measureless generosity

Your peace is all encompassing

We are sorry for times when we have put conditions on our willingness to care

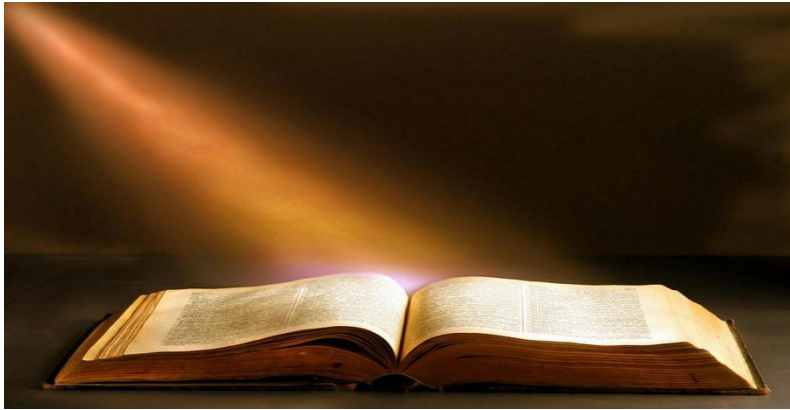
When we have kept what we have for ourselves and refused to share with others

When we have failed to seek peace and have caused discord

Forgive us; restore us; renew us by your Spirit. Amen

And we say the Lords prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come, your 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
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.**



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY SA NC

Our first reading is from Acts chapter 2 verses 1-21

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. **2** Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. **4** They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

5 There were Jews living in Jerusalem, religious people who had come from every country in the world. **6** When they heard this noise, a large crowd gathered. They were all excited, because all of them heard the believers talking in their own languages. **7** In amazement and wonder they exclaimed, "These people who are talking like this are Galileans!" **8** How is it, then, that all of us hear them speaking in our own native languages? **9** We are from Parthia, Media, and Elam; from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia; from Pontus and Asia, **10** from Phrygia and Pamphylia, from Egypt and the regions of Libya near Cyrene. Some of us are from Rome, **11** both Jews and Gentiles converted to Judaism, and some of us are from Crete and Arabia—yet all of us hear them speaking in our own languages about the great things that God has done!" **12** Amazed and confused, they kept asking each other, "What does this mean?"

¹³ But others made fun of the believers, saying, “These people are drunk!”

Peter's Message

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the other eleven apostles and in a loud voice began to speak to the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, listen to me and let me tell you what this means. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose; it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ Instead, this is what the prophet Joel spoke about:

¹⁷ ‘This is what I will do in the last days, God says:

I will pour out my Spirit on everyone.

Your sons and daughters will proclaim my message;

your young men will see visions,

and your old men will have dreams.

¹⁸ Yes, even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will proclaim my message.

¹⁹ I will perform miracles in the sky above

and wonders on the earth below.

There will be blood, fire, and thick smoke;

²⁰ the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will turn red as blood,

before the great and glorious Day of the Lord comes.

²¹ And then, whoever calls out to the Lord for help will be saved.’

Our second hymn is Holy Spirit we welcome you and the link can be found [here](#):

The reading from Acts chapter 2 comes as the disciples were waiting!

Jesus had said to them “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised by the Holy Spirit.”

These men had left everything to follow Jesus, seen him crucified, found the empty tomb and met with the risen Lord, now they were waiting, not really knowing what was coming next!

Can you imagine them all together, some saying “Why are we waiting?” some saying “Shall we just go home and get back to work?” Some wanting to stay, some not knowing what to do! They had been through so much together, much that they didn't understand.

But we read that they were ‘all together in one place’. They stayed together, ate together, prayed together, they were encouraging one another.

At the moment we are all waiting.

Waiting for the government to tell us what we can and cannot do in order to beat the coronavirus pandemic. There are many things we don't understand, many things we have not encountered before. But like the disciples we can work together to encourage one another. We are still praying together Prayer Partners and the Prayer Network are still happening either by phone or by email.

Church has changed. Church is showing up in other ways, online services are becoming the norm! Foodbanks, helping neighbours, sharing resources, books and jigsaws have risen in popularity as we all have more time at home, checking up on people to see how they are, caring for one another. Many of these things we have

always done as 'church' but this has been an opportunity to reach out to the community and let them see who we are.

Like the disciples we are not sure what will happen next but our faith tells us that God is always with us. "For I know the plans I have for you..."

Back to the disciples, suddenly as they were waiting we are told the whole building was filled with a sound like a strong wind and they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person and then they could all talk in other languages as the spirit enabled them.

How scary does that sound?

Unsurprisingly the people in the crowd couldn't understand what was happening and accused them of all being drunk!

In the midst of all the confusion Peter stepped up to the mark. He stood up and spoke to the crowd using scripture to explain what was taking place by quoting Joel.

What do you think was going through Peters mind at that moment? A short time ago he had been hiding in a locked room, now he was standing in front of a large crowd. Somehow he knew what to say, is this the gift of the spirit in him?

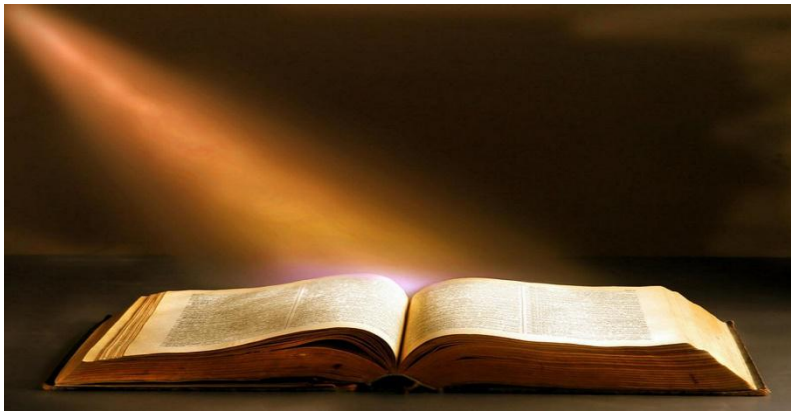
In Acts chapter 1 Jesus had said to the disciples that when they received the power of the Holy Spirit they were to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the end of the earth. By having the gift of languages they were equipped to go to all people, speak to them in a language they understood and spread the good news.

Do we do that in church? Is the language we use appropriate? Could someone who had never been to church before understand our terminology and our actions? Perhaps this is something to consider when we are back to Sunday worship in church.

The message from verse 17 is that God will pour out his spirit on **all people**. This includes people who would have been seen as having a low status – daughters, women and slaves, so people of other cultures. The use of the expression 'all flesh' in some translations underlines the importance of the moment. The people are witnessing the beginning of the fulfilment of the prophecy of Joel.

Being able to communicate in different languages was a clear sign of the Holy Spirits unifying power- bringing together people from different backgrounds, cultures and ethnicities. Today we shout the merits of having diverse congregations in our churches, but in practice many local congregations struggle to make this ideal a reality. What holds us back? How might we overcome such barriers? How can we work to ensure our church is as inclusive and unified as possible. Something to think about.

Our third hymn is God's spirit is deep in my heart and the link can be found [here](#):



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY SA NC

Our second reading is from 1 Corinthians 12:1-13 Good News Translation (GNT)

Gifts from the Holy Spirit

12 Now, concerning what you wrote about the gifts from the Holy Spirit.

I want you to know the truth about them, my friends. ²You know that while you were still heathen, you were led astray in many ways to the worship of lifeless idols. ³I want you to know that no one who is led by God's Spirit can say "A curse on Jesus!" and no one can confess "Jesus is Lord," without being guided by the Holy Spirit.

⁴There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. ⁵There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. ⁶There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service. ⁷The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

⁸The Spirit gives one person a message full of wisdom, while to another person the same Spirit gives a message full of knowledge. ⁹One and the same Spirit gives faith to one person, while to another person he gives the power to heal. ¹⁰The Spirit gives one person the power to work miracles; to another, the gift of speaking God's message; and to yet another, the ability to tell the difference between gifts that come from the Spirit and those that do not. To one person he gives the ability to speak in strange tongues, and to another he gives the ability to explain what is said. ¹¹But it is one and the same Spirit who does all this; as he wishes, he gives a different gift to each person.

One Body with Many Parts

¹²Christ is like a single body, which has many parts; it is still one body, even though it is made up of different parts. ¹³In the same way, all of us, whether Jews or Gentiles, whether slaves or free, have been baptized into the one body by the same Spirit, and we have all been given the one Spirit to drink.

If you have a candle, light it now and if not please use this image as your candle.

Let us pray:



With the light of this candle, we remember the light of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
God, you are here with us now and also with our friends and family in their homes today.
Especially we remember that you are also with those on our prayer network
Heather, Val, Margot, Zara, Isobel,

And in the quiet we each bring before you those we are concerned for...

Thank you, Jesus, Light of the world. Amen.

Gifts of the spirit

God poured out his spirit on all people and in this reading from 1 Corinthians we hear of the various ways Gods spirit gets worked into our lives.

This is not just a strategy for sharing out jobs, but more a celebration of unity in diversity. The Holy Spirit inspires devotion to Jesus and becomes visible in the community as people activate their particular gift of the spirit.

Oneness does not come from all being the same, following the exact pattern of service or sticking to one particular church culture. It comes from diversity of activity as people get stuck in, using the gifts they have been given for the common good.

Take the Elders, June often reminds us that we are 'Team URC'. A group of different people with different skills, from different backgrounds but working together, sharing those skills, to serve God and the church in the best ways we can.

People in a team don't all do the same 'job' – what would happen if a football team had all attackers and no one to defend their goal, or a cricket team with all batsmen but no one any good at fielding! By working together using the skills we have been given, with patience and tolerance, we can achieve amazing things.

As the reading says we are one body with many parts. All the gifts are handed out by the one spirit of God. He alone decides who gets what and when.

You are all part of the 'team' at Hornsea URC, so let us put those gifts we have been given to work this week in whatever ways we are called to do, let us make Christ visible by our words, actions and our prayers. Amen

Our fourth hymn is Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me and the link can be found [here](#):



Let us pray:

Holy Spirit of peace, we pray for our homes and nations where there is discord and conflict. Pour out your breath of peace that people may listen to each other; may respect one another; may honour one another.

Holy Spirit, hear us

Holy Spirit of hope, we pray for those who live in despair; for those who can see no purpose in their lives; for those who cannot see the way ahead; for those who feel completely alone.

Holy Spirit hear us

Holy Spirit of unity, we pray for your church, for its ministry to the faithful; for its mission to the world. May the spirit of Pentecost breathe upon us, that we may witness to the world the comfort, meaning and love that you offer. Heal our differences and make us one in you.

Holy Spirit hear us **Amen**

Our final hymn is All over the world the spirit is moving and the link can be found [here](#):

Thank you for joining our worship today, and thank you to all the technical people that make this new way of worship work!

As I was sitting the other day a verse from a hymn came to mind and I thought it quite appropriate for our time in lockdown.

“A man that looks on glass

On it may stay his eye

But if he pleaseth through it pass

And then the heavens espy”

We can sit looking at our windows thinking ‘Crumbs they need a good clean!’

Or we could look through them and see the beauty of creation, hear the birdsong, see the trees, the birds, the flowers, the glorious colours, and our spirits will be lifted knowing that for us life may be on hold but nature carries on. Things around us may change but our God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

I hope you have a good week and I pray:

May the power of the spirit challenge you

May the peace of the spirit comfort you

May the presence of the spirit enable you to live in love and service in the name of Christ. Amen.

To end our time together we will let Graham Kendrick sing ‘The Peace’ for us and the link is [here](#).