

Sunday Worship at Home 23rd May 2021, Pentecost Sunday

Introduction

Alleluia. Christ is Risen, **He is Risen Indeed Alleluia**

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.

As we wait in silence, fill us with your Spirit.

As we listen to your word, fill us with your Spirit.

As we worship you in majesty, fill us with your Spirit.

As we long for your refreshing, fill us with your Spirit.

As we long for your renewing, fill us with your Spirit.

As we long for your equipping, fill us with your Spirit.

As we long for your empowering, fill us with your Spirit.

Invitation to confession:

What God has prepared for those who love him, he has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything. Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord, confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Friend of sinners, you bring hope in our despair. **Lord have mercy.**

Healer of the sick, you give strength in our weakness. **Christ have mercy.**

Destroyer of evil, you bring life in our dying. **Lord have mercy.**

May almighty God who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring us his pardon and peace, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Collect (Special Prayer for the day)

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Reading from Acts 2:1-6,13-17,21

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.

[...] 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. [...] Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Reflection on the Reading:

The gift of the Holy Spirit is a gift that is different from God's free gift of salvation through Jesus. It is a gift with strings attached. Like all gifts it comes with choices. You can refuse it. you can accept it but then never unwrap it and keep it looking pretty, at first, and gathering dust. Or you can unwrap it, but that is a dangerous thing to do. Unwrap it and it will change you if you allow it to, refreshing, renewing, equipping and empowering you to see the world God's way; to proclaim God's truth in a world of fake news, empty promises and false reality; and to share God's love with those who need it through your actions. I do hope you are ready to unwrap such a powerful and dangerous gift.

A version of the Creed

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

Be still and pray: In your prayers, include prayers for the church; our Government as it manages the emergence from COVID restriction; the needs of the wider world, especially for peace in the Middle East; those who are ill, and those who have recently died.
Finish by saying the Lord's Prayer.

Conclusion

May God Almighty, Father Son and Holy Spirit, who set the church on fire on the day of Pentecost, bless us and give us his peace. Amen.

Reverend Eddie