

Sunday 8th June 2025: Pentecost

For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit at 10.30 am or some other suitable time.

Theme for today is "Wait until the Spirit comes upon you"

Prepared by Dee Moden our Local Preachers secretary

Opening words:

WHIRLING, SWIRLING, TWISTING AND TURNING,

ENTERING AND CONSUMING,

THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES.

CHANGING, COMPELLING, ENABLING AND EMPOWERING,

BREATHING AND FILLING,

THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES.

JOYFULLY BURSTING FORTH, YET IN A COMPLETENESS OF PEACE,

BY THE GRACE OF GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES.

COMES FOR YOU, AND COMES FOR ME.

THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES FOR EVERYONE

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Hymn: StF 400 Wind of God dynamic Spirit

OPENING PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, we come together from our different homes, different circumstances, with varied abilities and gifts, yet we come as one, sharing the joy of worshipping you and being in your presence. Creator God every day we see the wonders of your love in the world around us and, as we celebrate your precious gift of the coming of the Holy Spirit, we ask that you will open our hearts and minds to listen and receive your word with a new understanding, renewing, refreshing, and reviving our faith. You Lord have upheld and guided your people through the ages, we come to you this day in humble adoration and praise. Amen

Holy Spirit, you move amongst us changing lives, seeking to lead us towards the truth, breaking down barriers that we ourselves erect. You want to deepen our faith strengthen our commitment and enlarge our vision, but we so often put up excuses and create problems, and we close ourselves to you when we should be opening ourselves to your presence. Lord, forgive us and help us overcome our fears and doubts to see beyond our own limited horizon into your life-giving presence. Amen

Loving God, we give you thanks that we will be joining with Christian people all over the world sharing in the celebration of the coming of the gift of The Holy Spirit. We pray that you will breathe new life into each and every one of us, so that your light will shine, for all to see. We ask these things in and through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen

Readings: Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b, Acts 2: 1-21, John 14: 8-17 (25-27)

Hymn: StF 383 Holy Spirit gift bestower

MESSAGE

Let us imagine these disciples crowded together in this upper room, there would be lots going on outside people milling about celebrating the day of Pentecost also known as the Feast of the Weeks. This holiday celebrated the wheat harvest, and in some Jewish traditions was associated with the giving of the law and the renewal of the covenant. There would be people from different parts travelling many miles for this celebration. The disciples had been a mixture of emotions, from Palm Sunday through to Good Friday, Easter Sunday morning, then subsequently seeing Jesus in different settings, and hearing of others who had reported of seeing him too. Then he had had gone from them. But they knew that there was still something more to come, they had been told to wait, as we read in John's gospel.

This wouldn't have been easy, they wasn't sure what to expect, and they were fearful of the authorities. Then as suddenly, as Jesus had first appeared to them, there was this rush of what seemed like a rushing mighty wind, and you can imagine them almost being lifted off their feet as they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Whirling swirling



twisting and turning and consuming their very beings. This was both life-changing and challenging. But they rose to the challenge as they felt compelled and enabled, they rushed out into this bustling crowd sharing this wonderful news, and surprisingly, everyone could understand them.

This was so momentous that at first the crowd thought that they were drunk, they had never heard anything like it! Yes, the disciples were indeed drunk, but not as the crowd thought, there was no alcohol in site, they were drunk on the Holy Spirit. Jesus' promise fulfilled, the Holy Spirit the enabler had come.

Today, the Holy Spirit unseen as the wind, is all around us, enabling and working in us, and the works of the Holy Spirit can, is, and has been seen in lots of people and in unexpected places over the years, changing challenging and bursting forth bringing peace and hope. Only a couple of weeks ago we remembered how John Wesley's 'heart was stirred.'

We are all given gifts to use which are varied, completing and making whole the body of Christ. As we read this account in Acts, we see how the disciples were suddenly transformed and able, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to do many things. When God calls, he enables.

- Are we waiting and looking for something to change our lives?
- Do we recognise in other people a longing for change, and a searching for something?
- What can we do?
- Can we make a difference?

Hymn: StF 382 Holy Spirit come confirm us

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Let us pray,

Lord, we thank you for all the prayers that have been answered in the past week, for all the loving care your hand has given to many situations.

As you came at Pentecost..... Come again today

Holy Spirit coming gently as a dove, we pray for all who long for peace, and all who have lost sight of what peace really means. Homes racked by tensions, families split by petty disputes, communities scarred by prejudice and intolerance, Countries we see and hear of daily, torn apart by war, people living in constant fear, with destruction and devastation everywhere! May talking triumph over confrontation, and unity, tolerance, understanding, and acceptance of people's differences, replace division.

As you came at Pentecost..... Come again today

Holy Spirit, coming as wind and fire, free and irrepressible, we pray today for all who long for change, and for all who fear it. We think of the poor the hungry, the homeless and the refugee, the unemployed, the downtrodden and oppressed – these and so many others who yearn for new beginnings, and new opportunities to start afresh. We bring to you the people of our communities, our friends, our family, and the situations on our minds at this time.

Silence... Let them feel the peace that only you can give, your own peace.

As you came at Pentecost..... Come again today

Loving Lord, as we celebrate today how the Holy Spirit came like a whirlwind changing the lives of the Disciples just ordinary people, and countless other people throughout history, and still continues to change lives today. Holy Spirit come, come with all your swirling twisting and turning, breathing and filling, enabling, and empowering, enrich and change our world with all its need, bringing peace, healing and harmony, so all may come to know you as their Lord and Saviour. Gracious God, receive our prayers today in and through the Precious name of Jesus Christ.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: StF 379 Gracious Spirit Holy Ghost

The Grace:

God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.

For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.