

# Morning Prayer

at home with your  
Parish Church

in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS  
KINGS HEATH

## Pentecost

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023

### Preparation

*You may wish to mark your time of worship by arranging a table with a cloth, a candle and your Bible, or anything, such as flowers, that makes it a special reflective space.*

*Music: click on the links to hear and join in the music. Click stop at the end of each.*

#### **HYMN** [Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire](#)

1. Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,  
and lighten with celestial fire;  
thou the anointing Spirit art,  
who dost thy sev'nfold gifts impart.

2. Thy blessèd unction from above  
is comfort, life, and fire of love;  
enable with perpetual light  
the dullness of our blinded sight.

3. Anoint and cheer our soilèd face  
with the abundance of thy grace:  
keep far our foes, give peace at home;  
where thou art guide no ill can come.

4. Show us the Father and the Son,  
in thee and with thee, ever one.  
Then through the ages all along,  
this shall be our endless song.

5. "Praise to thy eternal merit,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit." Amen.

*At home, we pause to remember those gathered in Church who, in turn remember us.*

*We take this time, united in Christ, to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may find new ways to serve God.*

## Prayers of Penitence

*We confess:*

Almighty God, long-suffering and of great goodness: I confess to you, I confess with my whole heart my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments, my wrong doing, thinking and speaking: the hurts I have done to others, and good I have left undone. O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you; and raise me to newness of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*We keep silence, then pray:*

May almighty God who forgives all who truly repent have mercy upon us, pardon us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Word of God

NEW TESTAMENT READING      Acts 2:1-21

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. 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.'

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.  
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.  
And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.  
The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.  
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

PSALM 104:26-end *If you are able, you might stand to read this psalm aloud.*

There go the ships,  
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

These all look to you  
to give them their food in due season;  
when you give to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.  
When you hide your face, they are dismayed;  
when you take away their breath, they die  
and return to their dust.  
When you send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the LORD endure for ever;  
may the LORD rejoice in his works—  
who looks on the earth and it trembles,  
who touches the mountains and they smoke.  
I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
for I rejoice in the LORD.  
Let sinners be consumed from the earth,  
and let the wicked be no more.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul.  
Praise the LORD!

GOSPEL READING John 7:37-39

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." ' Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*We stand and turn to look in the direction of Church, to emphasise our gathering around a precious, shared story, and respond to our Colossians reading:*

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and 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.**

(from Common Worship)

## Prayers

*We pray* THE COLLECT for Pentecost

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

**. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

We pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**All: Our Father in heaven...**

REFLECTION from Tariro (*prepared for Church today when we baptise Isaiah.*)

I am sure some of you have heard the story of the leaky bucket. If you haven't, here it goes. There was once 2 buckets that were used to carry water from the river to the village. One would leak water such that by the time it got to the village it was half full compared to the other one which would be full because it had no leaks. The leaky bucket was sad and thought it was falling but the owner said to it, you have been serving a beautiful purpose because on your side of the road from the river to the village, flowers have been able to grow because daily, you have been watering them, giving them life to flower and bloom beautifully.

The power of water.

Today we encounter in our Gospel reading Jesus on the Feast of Tabernacles also known as the Feast of Booths. During this feast which lasted seven days with a holy convocation on the eighth day (Lev 23:36), there was a water ritual that would take place performed by the priest who would carry water from the river and pour it on the altar as they commemorated and celebrated the gift of water that God gave them from the rock in the wilderness.

Sam, being a nurse can tell you this that the human body can go a long time without eating but just hydrating with water. Once you take away the water we drink when thirsty for survival, for our bodies to flourish, for us to wash away toxins through urine or for us to have clear skin that changes and one cannot survive for long. Experts suggest that this goes from up to two months down to less than a week. It is estimated that the human body is two thirds water and so water is an essential part of our lives. and so, Jesus says, Let anyone who is thirsty come to me (John 7:37).

However as highlighted in verse 39, Jesus was not talking of the water we drink for survival, but the Holy Spirit. For most of us the familiar images of the Holy Spirit are fire and the dove. But here Jesus gives us another image of water, fresh and living water. When you drink it, you will be empowered to do amazing things. Because you would have been given power from on High.

'Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.  
Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.' (Acts 2: 17 – 18)

Jesus was telling them you will do things that are humanly impossible. You will be able to know things that would otherwise require you to have a PhD. You will be able to have understanding beyond your age. Errol, for you to be able to operate the machinery you use at work, you had to learn about it, read about it because it's easy for those machines to end life when not used properly than to give life. All would be amazed and perplexed by what you can do and achieve. Jesus here was presenting a possibility of getting

that without researching about it. he was telling them that when the doom and gloom comes, 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved' (Acts 2:21).

The power of the Holy Spirit.

And so, when the day of Pentecost came, we see this being played out. The Holy Spirit rested on every person who was in the house and 'divided tongues as of fire appeared among them and a tongue rested on each of them, and they spoke in other languages as the Spirit gave them ability.

Brothers and sisters, without God's Spirit on us, with us and for us, we will always be thirsty. There are things, certain levels of needs, purpose, achievement that no matter how much we chase them, they just seem unachievable and even if we might feel like we have achieved, the feeling is short lived. Its like our need for water, H2O. We will constantly need to drink more to quench our thirst after a certain amount of time. The Holy Spirit, the living water satisfies eternally.

Sometimes what we are chasing after, the unending thirst we continue to have, is not physical, it is spiritual and God's Spirit is what we require. Some of the peace we are after in our world only God's Spirit can deliver. Some of the joy we need in our home and family's and relationships, only God's Spirit can give. The hope that we want for our lives. Only God's Spirit can give and keep alive.

Our world is in need of the Spirit of God to move in the dark places, the hidden places where there are great needs. Our lives need the Spirit of God to fall afresh on us, in those areas of our lives that are dying, those areas that people do not see because we have done a good job of hiding them so that all may look perfect to the observer. Jesus is saying its time to do away with the temporary fixes for our thirsty and drink from the living waters of Christ.

Jesus was saying, be open, be willing, be ready to receive Heavenly water, God's Holy Spirit because you will get the contentment you need. Be eager to gulp in the same manner that you do when you get a glass of fresh cool water when you are parched from walking in the sun and your throat is dry. Through the Holy Spirit we can get the blessed assurance that Jesus is ours, we receive God's love, our future is secure. The solutions we seek can only be found in Christ who forgives, redeems, heals, accepts, gives us grace.

On this day of Pentecost as was the first day the Holy Spirit came and rested on those who were in the house, the Holy Spirit is falling afresh on us to renew our lives, to refresh us, to baptise us, to open our eyes to all the possibilities that await us in Christ.

And what a day to be baptised Isaiah and what a name too. When I met with Isaiah's parents, they talked about how the name feels very fitting for him. One of the meanings of Isaiah the name is God's salvation/ Salvation of God.

David when he baptised you, he blessed the water, the water that kept the Israelites as they journeyed through the wilderness, the water that keeps us alive, the water that symbolically marks and affirms your new life in Christ. Most importantly he baptised you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit who quenches our spiritual thirst. The Holy Spirit that was promised who would be your advocate, who though we might not see is ever present.

Today in the company of your parents, Godparents, family, friends and all God's children gathered today, we have become witnesses to your baptism and we are overjoyed to share in this special occasion and to

say welcome to the family of God. Today Isaiah as one of the youngest members of our church, you give us hope through Christ.

Going back to the story of the two buckets, Isaiah may yours not be a leaky bucket but be a life that is full of the living water that it overflows giving life, hope and joy that is evident to those who you touch even though they may think they are the ones holding you, giving you cuddles and kisses. May your well never run dry as God's fills you as we pray he fills everyone with the living water. With the rising of each day, may God's face shine on you as he shines on us all giving renewed hope for the future. On this day of Pentecost, may we with you receive and embrace the Holy Spirit and be open to the transformative power that the Holy Spirit gives us.

*We turn our reflection into PRAYERS:*

Spend time praying for Isaiah and his parents Sam and Errol.

Among those unwell, we remember Rachel Prince and Tricia Howard. We pray for any making decisions about and struggling with the transition to residential care.

Among those who have died we remember Wendy Pendleton and Tevin Gasa.

#### HYMN [Colours of day](#)

1. Colours of day dawn into the mind,  
the sun has come up, the night is behind.  
Go down in the city, into the street,  
and let's give the message to the people we meet.

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,  
open the door, let Jesus return,  
take seeds of his Spirit, let the fruit grow,  
tell the people of Jesus, let his love show.*

2. Go through the park, on into the town;  
the sun still shines on; it never goes down.  
The light of the world is risen again;  
the people of darkness are needing our friend.

3. Open your eyes, look into the sky,  
the darkness has come, the sun came to die.  
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,  
but Jesus is living, and his Spirit is near.

*(words & music: Sue McClellan, John Paculabo & Keith Ryecroft, arr Andrew Moore)*

*Imagining all whom we miss, we pray for each other:*

**The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

