

**MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE SHEET FOR PENTECOST
YEAR A 2020:**

31st MAY 2020.

The Holy Spirit, promised by Jesus, is poured out upon the first disciples at Pentecost. The Spirit, the energy of God, enables them – and enables us – to go out and share the good news of God’s deeds in Jesus Christ with the whole world.

OPENING REPONSES

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people

And kindle in us the fire of your love.

All who are led by the Spirit of God

Are children of God and fellow-heirs with Christ.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people.

Renew the face of your creation, Lord,

pouring on us the gifts of your Spirit,

And kindle in us the fire of your love.

For the creation waits with eager longing

For the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people and

kindle in us the fire of your love.

Lighting of the candle....

OPENING PRAYER

Dear Lord,

we gather in the name of Jesus

and in the power of the Spirit to worship you.

We bring gifts of speaking, of listening, of music,

of prayerfulness, of knowledge, and of wisdom.

May our gifts be united to honour you and may each

of us receive from you that which we need.

Amen.

CONFESSION

Jesus says, “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them.” Let us confess our sins before one another, acknowledging our faults, assured of God’s love and forgiveness.

God sends us out to proclaim the word to the world,
but we have been too slow to act.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

God’s salvation is a gift for the whole world,
but our vision has been too narrow.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

God calls us to build one another up in the Spirit,
but we have been too ready to judge.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION

May the God of love enrich you with his grace,

And nourish you with his blessing;

May the God of all power

defend you in trouble

and keep you from all evil.

May the God of compassion restore you

and grant you peace of heart and mind and spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God,

Like a rushing wind your Spirit moved upon the first disciples on the day of Pentecost and like a purifying fire your Spirit seared their hearts and minds with the message of salvation.

Send your Spirit upon the church in this time and place.

Stir up our courage,

And rouse us for prophetic witness,

That we may join with them,

To proclaim to the world your mighty deeds of power in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

SONG:

Come down, O love divine,

seek thou this soul of mine,

and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;

O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,

and kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn

**to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.**

**Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.**

**And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace, till they become the place
where-in the Holy Spirit finds a dwelling.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God,
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
Speak to us in the language of our hearts,
That we may hear your Word with understanding and
answer your call with confidence.
Amen

BIBLE READINGS

First Reading Acts 2:1-21

*The Holy Spirit gives new power to the disciples,
enabling them to share the good news of Christ with an
international audience.*

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. They were surprised and amazed, saying, "Look, aren't all the

people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!" They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, "What does this mean?" Others jeered at them, saying, "They're full of new wine!"

Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, "Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! These people aren't drunk, as you suspect; after all, it's only nine o'clock in the morning! Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.
Your young will see visions.
Your elders will dream dreams.
Even upon my servants, men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.
I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.
The sun will be changed into darkness,
and the moon will be changed into blood,
before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes.
And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Gospel John 20:19-23

God the creator brought Adam to life by breathing into his nostrils. Now Jesus breathes new life into the disciples, giving them the Holy Spirit.

It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and

stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you O Christ

REFLECTION

Song: Here in this Place by Marty Haugen

Here in this place new light is streaming,
Now is the darkness vanished away,
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in, the blind and the lame,
Call to us now and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery,
We are the old who yearn for your face,
We have been sung throughout all of history,
Called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
Gather us in, the proud and the strong,
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
Give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water,
Here we will take the bread of new birth,
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
Give us to eat the bread that is you,
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion,
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
Not in some heaven light years away,
But here in this place the new light is shining,
Now is the kingdom, now is the day.

**Gather us in and hold us forever,
Gather us in and make us your own,
Gather us in, all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones.
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones.**

RESPONSE: PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God,
you come into the locked rooms
of our lives and the dark cupboards of our hearts.
You come breathing peace and possibility.
Shine a light upon lives.
Many are the gifts of our lives
that remain unseen and unacknowledged.
May your spirit uncover the gifts
we ourselves have yet to find.
Give us the confidence to love boldly
and the humility to work compassionately.
Give us the wisdom to question our limitations
and knowledge to set aside our egos
for the sake of your kingdom.
May we dedicate
all the gifts of our lives to you, O God.
In Christ's name, we pray.
Amen.

RESPONSE: AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a loving God,
Whose Words sustains our lives
And the work of our hands in the world.
God is life.
We believe in God's Son amongst us,
Sowing the seed of life's renewal.
He lived with the poor to show the meaning of love.
Jesus Christ is Lord.
We believe in the Holy Spirit of Life,
Making us one with God,
Renewing our strength with her own
The Spirit is love.

RESPONSE: INTERCESSIONS

Spirit of Fire,
Inflame in us a passion for justice and equality:
**That we may know the cleansing
of our prejudices and fears
And proclaim your freedom boldly.**

Spirit of compassion, infuse us with your longings for
wholeness and life in all its fullness:
**That we may reach out to those who are hurting,
those in trouble, enfolding one another with your love,
offering one another the touch of your healing grace.**

Spirit of wisdom,
Be within us in our journeying,
gently guiding us along right paths:
**That we may be led towards transformation and new
beginnings in our world.**

Spirit of gentleness,
Touch us afresh, releasing us from all our fears:
**That we may know your acceptance of us,
And freely accept and embrace others.**

Spirit of power,
Hold us in our powerlessness:
**That we may know your strength
and become a voice for the voiceless,
Healing for the wounded,
And empowerment for the weak.**

Spirit of judgement,
be tender with us and show us your mercy:
**That we may humbly learn of you
and not be afraid to be your prophets in the world.**

Spirit of comfort,
Draw near to us when we are grieving,
confused and in pain;
in your graciousness, bring hope,
consolation and renewal:
That many may look and discover you in our midst.

Spirit of Unity,
As your Church, your people in this time and place,
resource our ministry to the faithful;
And refresh our 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.
Holy Spirit, hear us.
**Come, Holy Spirit, come.
In the name of our Saviour we pray.
Amen.**

PEACE

May you know the peace which the Spirit brings:
a peace rooted in love, patience and self-control,
shaped by kindness, generosity and faithfulness,
marked by gentleness, and crowned with joy.

We share the peace with each other on line...

A BLESSING

May the Spirit of God,
who breathed courage into the hearts of Jesus'
disciples,
fill your lives with hope, vitality, and power
to share the words and works of God.
And the blessing of God almighty...

CLOSING RESPONSES

May the Spirit who mothered creation and enabled
Incarnation,
**Continue to form and nurture us as we stumble
towards maturity;**

The Spirit who led Jesus into the wilderness,
**Stir us out of ease and safety as we follow the way of
Christ;**

The Spirit who transformed the disciples,
**Grace and gift us for the task of building God's
Kingdom;**

The Spirit whom Jesus bequeathed,
**Continue to comfort and discomfort us
until justice prevails, peace reigns and love directs all.**

A PRAYER FOR THE COMING WEEK

Sit very still and become aware of your breathing.

As you breathe in, think of God.
As you breathe out, think of the world.
Repeat this at least three times.

As you breathe in now, give thanks for the peace the Spirit brings.
As you breathe out, pray for peace in the world.
Repeat this at least three times.

As you breathe in, receive from God what he has for you.
As you breathe out, ask what you should do.
Repeat this at least three times.

Keep a few moments of quiet...
And then end your prayer time with the following prayer:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill my home with peace.
Come, Holy Spirit, fill my heart with love.
Come, Holy Spirit, fill my life with your power.
Amen.

QUESTIONS AND THOUGHTS TO PONDER IN THE COMING WEEK.

How might you seek opportunities where you can be more open to the Spirit of God's leading?
How might you put yourself outside your comfort zone?
How might you move into a place or a situation where you feel vulnerable and open towards others and then see what happens?

Acknowledgements

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- Wild Goose Iona Abbey Worship Book.
- Common Worship Living Word
- Spill the Beans
- Roots for Worship.