Written Service Sunday May 24th 2026
A service of worship for use at home
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Pentecost

Nottingham North East Methodist Circuit
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Hymn StF 372 Come down O love divine

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.

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.

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.

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 Love create a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

Bianco da Siena

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Lord, as we worship today on Pentecost Sunday, give us a vision.
Move us by your Holy Spirit.
Bring good news to us all.
Bring freedom and peace to broken people,
And let us get a taste of Heaven here on Earth.
Open our eyes to see you as you are.
And open our hearts to praise you.
Give us a vision that will take us out of our comfort zones
And lead us into new ways of serving you.
Help us to be agents of your love to all people
In a world where there is much division and hate.
Helps us to be beacons of hope
In a world that is sinking deeper into despair.
Help us to be agents of your peace
In a world that is torn apart by conflict and wars.
In our worship today our God,
Give us a vision through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A prayer of confession

Lord sometimes you come to us,
but we do not recognise you;
You call us to serve, but we do not follow;
You command us to love strangers and share your gospel with the nations, but we do not obey;
You bless us, but we do not thank you.
Please forgive us and help us to change our ways.

Lord you accept us as we are,
but we do not accept others;
You forgive us, but we do not forgive those who wrong us;
You love us, but we fail to love our neighbours.
Please forgive us and help us to change our ways.
Lord you showed us how to carry out your mission;
But we still insist on doing things our way.
You identified yourself with the poor, the needy and the outcasts;
But we tend to focus on ourselves and are indifferent to them.
You suffered and died so that we could have eternal life;
But we do not give up our comfortable lives
to share your good news with others.
Please forgive us and help us to change
our ways. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen

Hymn StF 370 Breathe on me breath of God

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly Thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life
Of Thine eternity.

Edwin Hatch

Reading Acts 2 1-13 - The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues[a] as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,[b] 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Hymn – StF 385 Holy Spirit we welcome you

Holy Spirit, we welcome You
Holy Spirit, we welcome You
Move among us with holy fire
As we lay aside all earthly desire,
Hands reach out and our hearts aspire
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome You.

Holy Spirit, we welcome You
Holy Spirit, we welcome You
Let the breeze of Your presence blow
That Your children here might truly know
How to move in the Spirit's flow
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome You.

Holy Spirit, we welcome You
Holy Spirit, we welcome You
Please accomplish in us today
Some new work of loving grace we pray
Unreservedly have Your way
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome You.

Christopher Alan Bowater

Reading/words for reflection

The Day of Pentecost is always a great celebration for the church. We gather together each year on this day, to hear the story of the birth of the Church, told in Acts 2: when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles like the rush of a violent wind, with tongues as of fire dancing on their heads; people from all nations hearing the apostles speaking in their own language, and more than 3,000 responding by being baptized into Christ.

It is an amazing story to hear again, isn't it? The miracle of Pentecost. But don't you wonder a little, when you hear this story, whether we are missing something today? After all, I doubt that in many churches this morning there will be a violent wind, or fire, or miraculous speech. So are we missing something? Where is the wind and the fire today? Where is the excitement of that first Pentecost?

Where Is the Holy Spirit Today?

Perhaps the better question to ask is: where is the Holy Spirit today? After all, isn't that the point of Pentecost? To give us the Holy Spirit? So the question to ask today is not, where is the wind and the fire, but where is the Holy Spirit?

And if we ask the question in that way, then we do, indeed, have a pretty exciting answer, if you ask me. Because the Holy Spirit is without a doubt here with us today, in some very amazing and powerful ways. Let me share two of those ways.

- The Word of God

First, the Holy Spirit is here, and comes to us today, through the God's word – the life-changing Word of God – which connects us to all Christians going all the way back to that first Pentecost and connects us to the God who inspired it.

The same Holy Spirit who inspired Peter to preach on that first Pentecost, is with us today as we hear again his ancient words. Those who heard Peter that day heard him speak in their own language. And so do we. Just as many Christians around the world today are hearing this in their

own language. It may not seem as miraculous, but I think it is pretty incredible to think of Christians around the world today hearing these words in their own language.

Story of Linnea, she spent forty years bringing the gospel to people on the west coast of Africa. The particular community she was serving speaks Nyarafolo, a language which was not written and so did not have a written Bible. Linnea worked with a team to develop a written language, and just in recent years they have been able to publish the New Testament, the books of the Law and Psalms in Nyarafolo.

Isn't that amazing? The Pentecost miracle continues, and through the Word of God proclaimed here and around the world, the Holy Spirit continues to be poured into the hearts of listeners, producing faith and trust in our God.

- The Called and Gathered Church

Where is the Holy Spirit today? The second way that the Holy Spirit comes to us today is through the gathered congregation.

The Holy Spirit is the reason we worship today. The Holy Spirit calls and gathers us, just as it has done for centuries all around the world. The Holy Spirit brings Christians together wherever they might be and gives us a variety of gifts, all for the common good. "Now there are varieties of gifts," Paul reminds us, "but the same Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:4). The Spirit has been poured out upon all flesh, as Peter reminds us in his famous sermon, young and old, men and women, all have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit, and we come together to share our gifts and

We may not have wind and fire today, but when we take time to meet in the name of Jesus he is with us. Doing those very things that the Church has done since that first Pentecost. And that means that the Holy Spirit is present with us now, and all who share in worship of any kind today, just as it was then.

It's always tempting to think that we need more – we need more excitement, more enthusiasm, more emotion; we need more wind and fire on Sunday mornings. But actually we have all we need! We have the Holy Spirit, resting and abiding with us – forever

The point of Pentecost is not the wind and the fire – it never was. The point of Pentecost is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit who brings to the church all the gifts of God, all that we need, for life and salvation.

But if the point of Pentecost is the gift of the Holy Spirit, then the result of Pentecost is sharing the good news of the gospel with all nations. Do you remember what Jesus said right before the Pentecost miracle? He said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Each of us has everything we need to go and share our faith. Everything you need to be the church, the body of Christ, in the world. Because you have the Holy Spirit. You can now share the good news of Jesus. And you can tell everyone that you know!

There won't be any violent wind or fire today. At least, I hope not. But we're not here for the wind and the fire. We are here to reflect on the God behind that wind and fire, to give thanks for the gift of God's only Son, who died to save us and forgive us, and we are here to receive again the promised Holy Spirit, who unites us to our God in ways beyond what we can even imagine.

Amen

Intercessions

Today on Pentecost Sunday we are reminded that we are one worldwide family in Christ. We give thanks for people in every generation who have spent their lives sharing the good news of Jesus with others. We remember especially those who were pioneers in missions, who willingly travelled to faraway places, sacrificed their comforts and faced numerous dangers and persecution to fulfil their calling.

Lord, we thank you that we are one family in Christ.

Let us thank God for those who spread the gospel in our own country, for past leaders of this church and many others who answered God's call to be the voice and hands of Jesus, and to disciple and teach God's Word to others.

Lord, we thank you that we are one family in Christ.

Let us praise God for the work and witness of the Church around the world today. For the national leaders, pastors, evangelists and missionaries who tirelessly witness for Christ to their own people, in their own languages and cultural contexts.

Lord, we thank you that we are one family in Christ.

Let us thank God for those who are stepping out to new mission frontiers today, who are taking the gospel to genuinely unreached people in remote parts of the world, crowded refugee camps and even in our local neighbourhoods.

Lord, we thank you that we are one family in Christ

Hear my prayers and those of all your people.

Amen

Hymn StF 395 Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Daniel Iverson

Closing prayer

Today on Pentecost Sunday I offer myself to work with you Father, Son and Holy Spirit, not just in my home and through my local church, but I commit myself to stepping out of my comfort zone, to pray and to support your mission to the world. Enlarge my vision of the world I pray and give me the strength, love and wisdom to reach all nations, peoples and tribes through my prayers, my giving and my commitment to you, in your name and for your glory.

Amen

(Prayers taken from reachbeyond.org.uk)