

June 5th 2022 – Morning Service

Pentecost Sunday

Rev. Michael Payne

Call to Worship

Whoever you are, come together and come to God.

Wherever you're from, come together and come to God.

Whatever you bring, come together and come to God.

However you feel, come together and come to God.

God is here, and God is good!

StF 106 – God whose almighty word

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| 1) God whose almighty word
Chaos and darkness heard,
And took their flight,
Hear us, we humbly pray,
And where the gospel day
Sheds not its glorious ray,
Let there be light! | 3) Spirit of truth and love,
Life-giving, holy Dove,
Speed forth your flight;
Move on the waters' face,
Bearing the lamp of grace,
And in earth's darkest place
Let there be light! |
| 2) Christ, you have come to bring
On your redeeming wing
Healing and sight,
Health to the sick in mind,
Sight to the inly blind,
O to all humankind
Let there be light! | 4) Blessed and holy Three,
Glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
Boundless as ocean's tide
Rolling in fullest pride,
Through the world far and wide
Let there be light! |

John Marriott

CCL No. 515642

A gathering prayer

Generous God, as we gather in this place, open our hearts and minds to receive all you have for us.

May your Spirit renew us and your love warm our spirit.

On this Pentecost day fill us anew with the power your Spirit. Amen.

A prayer of adoration

God of wonder, how marvellous you are.

For You truly are an awesome God.

All creation looks to you to provide and satisfy its needs.

Every breath has its origin with you;

You are the breath of life that breathed into all creation.

Your breath sustains creation,

From the glory of your presence you lovingly gave your Son Jesus Christ

to enter into creation, to live among us and to die on the cross for us.

Death could not hold him and after the resurrection

You took him back to sit at your right hand.

At Pentecost with mighty power you poured out your Holy Spirit on all people, all ages, all nations, and that gift we truly celebrate today.

You gave birth and life to your new creation; your church.

You call us to be the love of Christ in the world today, where we fail we make our confession.

A prayer of confession

We are sorry when we fail to live as Spirit-filled children of God; when our will and purpose seeks to overthrow yours. Forgive us when we then find ourselves fearing situations we can't control, and doubting what we can't see or understand.

Forgive us when we don't feel like rejoicing and celebrating for negative emotions have infiltrated our very core. As others may share of what you have done in their lives we can sometimes find ourselves being sceptical instead of accepting, instead of believing and rejoicing in your wonders.

Lord God, forgive us and enable us to live more Spirit-filled lives. Amen.

God sent his Son to shed his blood as payment for our sins.

God sent his Holy Spirit to live with us and in us.

Be at peace. For Jesus is faithful and just. Our sins are forgiven.

Amen.

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."

StF 391 – O breath of life

- 1) O breath of life, come sweeping through us,
Revive your church with life and power;
O Breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us,
And fit your church to meet this hour.
- 2) O Wind of God, come, bend us, break us,
Till humbly we confess our need;
Then in your tenderness remake us,
Revive, restore; for this we plead.
- 3) O Breath of love, come, breathe within us,
Renewing thought and will and heart;
Come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,
Revive your church in every part.

Elizabeth Ann Head

CCL No. 515642

Reading: Romans 8: 14 - 17

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Sermon

How many this weekend will be drunk? That's how many thought the disciples were on the first Christian Pentecost Festival, drunk with new wine!

I refer to it as the first Christian Pentecost Festival as Pentecost was, and is, a festival in the Jewish Calendar, The Jewish feast of Pentecost (Shavuot) was primarily a thanksgiving for the first-fruits of the wheat harvest

This first weekend in June 2022 is truly a weekend of Celebration.

Have you got anything in your life that you want to celebrate? How will you do it?

The Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II will have dominated this weekend's celebrations. There will have been many events happening around the country, and indeed around the world. The TV commentary teams will have been describing what is happening so that those watching from a distance can be more fully involved.

As part of the celebration the nation is being encouraged to sing Neil Diamond's soft rock classic Sweet Caroline. The song was chosen by listeners of Zoe Ball's Radio 2 Breakfast Show as an "uplifting, happy" melody everyone can sing at street parties on 5 June. Today is June 5th, will we join in the singing? Should we add it to our "hymn choice" for this Sunday? (For those who may like to sing it the words are included at the end of the service)

Radio 2's campaign to get the nation singing enlisted the help of the "Together Coalition" - which organised last year's "Thank You Day" for people who helped the nation through the pandemic. This year's Thank You Day is taking place today, on the 5th June, the last day of the Jubilee celebrations, to pay tribute to the Queen after 70 years of service, as well as saying thank you for "the millions of tiny individual acts of kindness that make our communities the special places they are".

As we gather in worship we give thanks to God for many things; and perhaps today we particularly give thanks for the people of faith who have helped us on our journey of faith.

The wedding of Josephine and David was yesterday on the 4th June in Bakewell. It was a day of celebration as 60 people gathered to mark the love they have for each other and this step of commitment to each other.

This Sunday, 5th June, is also of course Pentecost, a day for celebration.

Pentecost is for the Christian Church a celebration of the Birth of the Church but so often little is made of it beyond remembering the “strange” things that happened on that first Christian Pentecost and wondering what it was all about. Of course in years gone by it was Whit-weekend and a bank holiday weekend in its own right.

How many of you enjoy celebrating birthdays? – Your answer may well depend on previous celebrations and how old you are!

Many years ago I went to my nephews 18th birthday party. It was a lunch in Oxford and we lived in Lancashire – fortunately, Robert appreciated the fact that Anita and I spent the best part of 7 hours in a car that day, “just for lunch”. This year we were invited to his daughters 1st birthday party in London. We decided against spending 5 – 6 hours in a car for her birthday. I’m pretty sure she would not have missed us.

But oh how birthday parties have changed!

Young children enjoy birthday parties, but they have changed so much since many of us were young children. For me it was jelly and blancmange in the front room with a few friends and pass-the-parcel - but now it’s likely to be away from home with activities and entertainment and a large bill for the parents to pay.

After a number of years birthdays tend to be “forgotten”; we get to an age where we don’t want to mark being any older though some birthdays come around and they are seen as “A big one” and must be celebrated.

But what about the birthday of the Church is it so old we no longer celebrate the occasion? Well no – for we are here in celebration today and in this act of worship we celebrate and mark the occasion. But what lessons can we learn from that day to help us be Church today?

I believe Pentecost is a day when united or ecumenical services are appropriate. It was a pattern I started in my previous Circuit with open air afternoon services. On the first Christian Pentecost we remember it was “When they were together in one place” that it all really kicked off with a mighty happening beyond understanding and described with imagery for it was beyond easy description.

“Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.”

That was the best way they could describe, through imagery. Yet “It was when they were together that things happened.”

I do not believe that the ending of all difference in emphasis between the church denominations and congregation is the right way to go, that we become a group of “identical groups”. What we do need is to be working together, affirming each other and seeking to further the things of God’s Kingdom not our earthly empires.

The Cry went up on that day, described in Acts 2, “we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!”

What does that mean for us today? I believe it means we should be finding ways to spread the truth of the Gospel in ways that people of all ages, cultures and sub-cultures can understand. Not one congregation or denomination can do this. Collectively we stand a chance. It is “unity in our diversity” to use a phrase that has become something of a Church Cliché that is needed. The majority of our communities are far more mobile than ever before and are prepared to travel for that which matters to them.

With “the Gate Church” project we have a model of a “new places for new people” providing a place of worship and faith growth for families who have children with additional needs. Hosted at Brierley Hill but supported by the Circuit and indeed beyond with District support.

As a Circuit we are seeking to refocus our work, worship and mission. In whatever shape the circuit goes forward we may find each congregation looking to focus on an aspect of mission and ministry focused by the needs of the community and the gifts and talents God has equipped us with. How we can use God’s gifts given to his church for Kingdom and not empire purposes?

As we mark this birthday of the Church may it spur us on to rethink church and what we are doing to help others hear what God has done for us in Jesus.

As Birthday parties have changed over the years so may we change how we celebrate the love and grace of God to be relevant and exciting!

Words of encouragement and commission

Jesus you are the one who commissioned your first disciples to go and make disciples of all nations. You are the one who promised the gift of your Holy Spirit to your disciples. You are the one who keeps your promises. You are the one who gave the Spirit that the disciples could fulfil their commission. You worked through those disciples that in due time we ourselves heard the news of your act of salvation.

Lord Jesus pour out your Holy Spirit once more upon your followers here today that we may respond to that same commission and spread the truth of the Gospel in ways that all can understand.

So let us go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to observe the teaching of Jesus.

StF 399 – When deep despair casts out all light

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|---|---|
| 1) When deep despair casts out all light
And hope is wearing thin;
Come Spirit, dance with gentle grace,
Shine through the dullness we embrace
And make the colours sing;
And make the colours sing. | 3) When colour, lifestyle, creed or name
Cause groundless hate and fear;
Come Spirit, weave a web of peace,
That prejudice and violence cease;
Reveal God's purpose here;
Reveal God's purpose here. |
| 2) When greed dictates that children die
And poverty holds sway;
Come Spirit, burn as living flame,
Prompt us to act to end this shame;
Cast apathy away;
Cast apathy away. | 4) When guilt and fear tear us apart
And faith's a bitter thing;
Come Spirit, dance with gentle grace,
Shine through the dullness we embrace
And make God's colours sing;
And make God's colours sing. |

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

God of all nations, on this day of Pentecost we praise you for the power of your Holy Spirit, equipping each of us for our life's work.

We celebrate especially the wonderful work of our Queen, who has put loyalty before her royalty through all the ages of her reign.

And who, day by day, has served you her God, and Christ her King, with humility, resilience and grace. Thank you for all she is and all she has done to your glory.

Amen.

Prayers of thanksgiving and Intercession

*Response after each phrase: **Holy Spirit, affirm them today.***

We pray, Holy Spirit, for all who lack confidence.

Holy Spirit, affirm them today

We pray for governments and those with authority over the lives of others; give to them wisdom and compassionate hearts.

Holy Spirit, affirm them today.

For parents struggling to meet the needs of their families as costs increase and time seems to be ever in short supply

Holy Spirit, affirm them today.

We pray for children struggling with their work at school as important exams are on the horizon.

Holy Spirit, affirm them today.

For teachers struggling to meet the demands of the day and find fulfilment in their work due to external pressures.

Holy Spirit, affirm them today.

We pray for carers trying to support and comfort those who are vulnerable in such a variety of places.

Holy Spirit, affirm them today.

We pray for the frail, facing diminishing strength and loss of identity and for all people struggling to be who they truly are called to be

Holy Spirit affirm them – and us – today.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the
glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are
yours now and for ever. **Amen.**

StF 370 – Breathe on me, Breath of God

- 1) 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.
- 2) Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.
- 3) Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with thy fire divine.
- 4) Breathe on me, Breath of God;
So shall I never die,
But live with thee the perfect life
Of thine eternity.

Edwin Hatch CCL No. 515642

Dismissal and Blessing

Go from here knowing you have met with God,
been forgiven through Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be channels of love and grace.
And may the Blessing of our Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and be experienced
through you in the days that come. Amen

The Gate

The Gate is a worshipping community, that has children with additional needs specifically in mind - but is intentionally for all!!! It is an inclusive church that does things a little bit differently to traditional worship. It is tailored to those who may learn differently from us and those who find traditional worship doesn't quite feed them in a satisfactory way.

It is about creating and enabling disciples of Jesus in an environment that is comfortable for them. It offers deep discussion in family groups rather than separating, singing with Makaton or BSL as a given, Interactive learning through craft and messy play, through eating together and through prayer and reflection but essentially helps those who attend The Gate to access God and Jesus's teachings in a way that is most suitable for them to connect. It is lead by its people for its people – sharing leadership and worship between those who are able, whilst encouraging others to build on their gifts and talents.

Sweet Caroline Neil Diamond.

Where it began, I can't begin to know
But then I know it's growing strong
Was in the spring
And spring became the summer
Who'd have believed you'd come along

Hands, touching hands
Reaching out, touching me, touching you

Sweet Caroline
Good times never seemed so good
I've been inclined
To believe they never would

But now I look at the night and it don't seem so lonely
We filled it up with only two
And when I hurt
Hurting runs off my shoulders
How can I hurt when holding you

One, touching one
Reaching out, touching me, touching you

Sweet Caroline
Good times never seemed so good
I've been inclined
To believe they never would
Oh no, no

Sweet Caroline
Good times never seemed so good
Sweet Caroline
I believe they never could

Sweet Caroline
Good times never seemed so good