

**~AT HOME WORSHIP~**

**Sunday 5th of June 2022**

**Theme: Pentecost.**

**Preparation:** Today we hear about the Holy Spirit. The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and this gave them the courage to go out and share the good news of Jesus. Spend sometime reflecting on this image.



Estella Louisa Michaela Canziani (British painter, 1887-1964), "Pentecost" (1905-1936), watercolour, private collection. She grew up among artists of the Pre-Raphaelite circle.

**Hymn/Song:**

[Spirit Of Holiness, Wisdom And Faithfulness Song Lyrics Video - Divine Hymns - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-QNMJsks74)

Spirit of holiness, wisdom and faithfulness,

wind of the Lord, blowing strongly and free:

strength of our serving and joy of our worshipping

Spirit of God, bring your fulness to me!

1 You came to interpret and teach us effectively

all that the Saviour has spoken and done;

to glorify Jesus is all your activity

promise and gift of the Father and Son:

Chorus

2 You came with your gifts to supply all our poverty,

pouring your love on the church in her need;

you came with your fruit for our growth to maturity,

richly refreshing the souls that you feed:

Chorus

**Opening Prayers**

In our worship, on this Pentecost Sunday let us remember that the love of God for his people and for his church knows no limits. The Psalmist talks of God’s love reaching up to the heavens and his justice to the depth of the ocean, and yet he blesses us as individuals with the gifts of his Spirit so that his Church, his people might be a light in this place, to his glory.

Father God, we bring our offering of worship and with it the service of our lives through this coming week. May we go from this place knowing that we have met with you and been blessed by your Spirit, to live and work to your glory. Amen

We are drawn to your feet in worship Your creation facing its creator
Hearts laid bare by your light Humbly asking for your mercy.
We come to you as a people in need of assurance and forgiveness. We come to you as a people in need of healing and wholeness. We come dependent upon your love.
Draw us close. Enfold us in your arms. Fill us with your Spirit
that we might reflect your light within this dark world,
speak your Word with boldness and draw others to your feet.
We ask this through your dear Son Jesus Christ.
**Amen**

Living God whose Word became flesh in Jesus and whose Spirit of Truth speaks into our hearts all honour and glory and worship belong to you. As our praises pronounce your wonder may our lives overflow with love, that our words and deeds might tell of your goodness and declare your infinite grace. **Amen**.

[**Prayer of Confession for Pentecost**](http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au/liturgies/main/index.php?ch_table=link7&year=A&SID=)

Merciful God, the gift of Jesus’ life in us is visible

in the way we witness to the fruitfulness of that gift.

We know that the fruit of the Spirit consists of
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,

faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
Yet, so often we put conditions on our love—

and joy and peace are difficult to discern

when our words and actions deny their presence.

**Response:**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit in me.**(Ps. 51:10)

By desiring instant results to most things these days,

we confess that we forget what it’s like to be patient.

We find ourselves neglecting the needs of others

because we run out of time to be kind to other than ourselves.
**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit in me.**(Ps. 51:10)

When we persistently make self-centred decisions

rather than Christ-centred ones,

our understanding of your goodness and faithfulness is weakened

and our discipleship lacks credibility.
**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit in me.**(Ps. 51:10)

In this aggressive world,

it’s easy to believe one can’t get anywhere

by exercising a spirit of gentleness or even self-control.
**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit in me.**(Ps. 51:10)

Gracious and merciful God,

grant us your forgiveness and your love

so that we may truly care for one another.
**Refresh and renew us with the Holy Spirit**

**so that we are fruitful and vital disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Those who are in Christ are a new creation:

everything old has passed away;
see, everything has become new!

All this is from God

with whom we have been reconciled through Christ. (2 Cor. 5:17-18)
**Thanks be to God!**

**Prayer for the Day**

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

As we celebrate Pentecost before our readings

[Halle, Halle, Hallelujah [with lyrics for congregations] - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFQQS6CRh3E)

**BIBLE READINGS**

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Acts 2:1-11

When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were Jews living in Jerusalem, religious people who had come from every country in the world. When they heard this noise, a large crowd gathered. They were all excited, because all of them heard the believers talking in their own languages. In amazement and wonder they exclaimed, “These people who are talking like this are Galileans! How is it, then, that all of us hear them speaking in our own native languages? We are from Parthia, Media, and Elam; from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia; from Pontus and Asia, from Phrygia and Pamphylia, from Egypt and the regions of Libya near Cyrene. Some of us are from Rome, both Jews and Gentiles converted to Judaism, and some of us are from Crete and Arabia—yet all of us hear them speaking in our own languages about the great things that God has done!”

John 20:19-23

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

**REFLECTION TIME**

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**I Was There at Pentecost
A Monologue**

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

Ah, Pentecost. People ask me about it every once in a while. I remember it as through it were yesterday -- though it's been twenty years or more since then. History was being made, the end of an old era, the beginning of the new -- and I was there.

I was 19 or so, up to Jerusalem from Galilee for Passover. Just a kid. It was the year they crucified Jesus, a fellow Galilean. I was stunned, heartbroken. After his death I just didn't go home. I hung around with some of his followers, in hiding actually. And then on Sunday, word came that he had risen from the dead. And so I stayed in the city.

Those were heady days, with Jesus appearing to the apostles and others for weeks on end. Then he ascended, went up into heaven. We were to wait in the city, the apostles told us. Something about power and witnessing and the Holy Spirit. So we waited -- about 120 of us -- meeting morning and evening, talking, reading scripture, praying. Nearly ten days we waited like that.

Then one morning when we had gathered together for early prayer -- about 8 o'clock or so -- the building where we were meeting was hit by a whirlwind -- or so it seemed. You could hear the howling of the wind but couldn't feel it in the room.

"O dear Jesus," someone called out. And then came the flames -- dancing flames appeared in the room above us.

"God Almighty," another person shouted. Peter was praying loudly, other apostles joining in. It was eerie, when I think about it. Wind that didn't blow, flames that didn't burn -- like the glory of God on the mountain when he appeared to Moses.

All over the room flames were licking, flaring over people. And as they did it seemed like the brother or the sister would explode. Joy would flood their faces, tears course down their cheeks, praise fill their lips. Hands were up and down. People were laughing and weeping, kneeling and standing on tiptoes reaching up, as it were, to God.

And then the flames touched me and I felt it too. I really can't describe it except that I felt flooded over by God. Happy, giddy even. Bursting with joy. Full!

The sounds were amazing, too. Moments before, the air had been filled with the sound of a windstorm. Now the room was full of the murmurs of voices -- some loud, some soft, all intense.

But it wasn't Greek or Aramaic. It seemed like different languages coming out of our lips -- powerfully, joyfully -- but different. We were pouring out into the square now, attracting attention. Since Pentecost was a major Jewish feast day, there were tens of thousands of pilgrims in the city from all over the world.

I didn't know what I was saying, but it felt good to lend my voice to God and just speak out to express the fullness and joy I felt within. As I was speaking in my own little world, people began to gather round to listen. A couple of families came by. Then some of them ran off to get others and soon there were hundreds of people gathered in groups around me and the others. Finally, I seemed to run out of words and just stood there with joy on my face.

Someone called to me in a language I didn't know.

"What?" I answered in Greek -- everybody knew some Greek.

"Don't stop!" he said.

"Don't stop what?"

"Don't stop saying the beautiful things you are saying about God's greatness. I've never heard anything like it in Cappadocian."

"Cappadocian?"

"Yes, aren't you from Cappadocia like the rest of us here?" He pointed to those who had gathered around. I shook my head. "It's like you're saying the Psalms, but in our own language -- so beautiful in our mother tongue! How do you know our language?"

I was about to answer, but someone across the square was shouting that we must be drunk. Peter was trying to deal with it. He climbed up on the steps of one of the houses and gestured for people to be quiet.

Peter raised his hand. "We're not drunk, brothers and sisters. It's only nine o'clock in the morning. But what you're witnessing is a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy that your sons and your daughters will prophecy. God's Holy Spirit has come upon us just like Jesus told us he would.

Peter said a lot more that I can't remember, but the crowd was hanging on every word. And he didn't go easy on them. "This Jesus whom you crucified," he said, "God has raised from the dead and exalted on high."

You could hear an audible gasp. Conviction was all over the square. Someone called out, "What should we do?"

Without missing a beat, Peter answered, "Repent and be baptized every one of you for the forgiveness of your sins and you'll receive the Holy Spirit, for the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all who are afar off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls."

"Where?" someone called. "Where can we be baptized?"

"Bethesda," another shouted. "There's water at the Pool of Bethesda." So the crowd started moving in that direction. Across town, through the narrow streets pushed this strangely quiet crowd of thousands. Down the grade, down the steps until they came to the waters of the pool. They stood at the edges, five to ten deep all around.

Peter was there by now and called for the apostles to join him in the water. Not enough. Then he motioned for me and other disciples to help. It was still. All you could hear was weeping from some, deep sighs from others.

Peter looked out at the multitude assembled around the pool and spoke quietly. "This is a baptism of repentance in the name of Jesus the Nazarene, whom God raised from the dead and exalted to the highest place. When you are baptized I want to assure you that you are both forgiven and loved by God. And you will receive the same gift of the Holy Spirit that you have seen upon us this day."

He invited people to come into the pool and they came by the scores. We would baptize them and they would come up sputtering -- and laughing and singing. All over the Pool of Bethesda that day we saw thousands -- someone counted three thousand people -- praising God and worshipping. I don't know if they were speaking in tongues or not. All I know was that on that day, in that place, it seemed like the languages of all nations were turned toward God on High who had brought salvation and the joy of his Holy Spirit upon ordinary people who sought him -- from Jerusalem to Cappadocia and beyond.

Pentecost. Ah, Pentecost. That was the day that God began to pour out his Holy Spirit and he's never ever stopped since. Over the years I've seen the Spirit come in many ways -- sometimes like that day, sometimes quietly, sometimes in jubilation. But it's the presence of the Spirit, the Spirit of God, that matters, not our emotions or the circumstances.

Pentecost? Yes, I was there, and have never been the same since. You *have* seen a Pentecost haven't you? *Haven't* you?

**Children may choose to use the Activity Sheet**

**Time for Prayer: Let us pray**

Loving God,

We ask for the gift of your Holy Spirit

to help us pray as we ought.

Holy Spirit: **Help Us.**

We ask for the energy and vision of your Spirit

for those who are tiring in the battle against injustice and oppression:

for those exhausted by the struggle with poverty and hunger.

Holy Spirit: **Help Us.**

We ask for the hope and comfort of your Spirit

for those whose lives are overshadowed by illness or pain;

for those whose lives are darkened by sorrow or bereavement.

Holy Spirit: **Help Us.**

We ask for the peace and joy of your Spirit

for those living in the shadow of war and violence;

for those eaten up by guilt and anxiety

and whose Christian life has become hard and dry.

Holy Spirit: **Help Us.**

We ask for the guidance and strength of your Spirit

for those uncertain how to use their time, talents and gifts;

for those tempted to do what is wrong.

Holy Spirit: **Help Us.**

We ask for the love and courage of your Spirit

for those reaching out to comfort the distressed;

for those reaching out to others with the Good News of Christ.

Holy Spirit: **Help Us.**

Loving God,

We ask for the assurance of your Spirit

to know your presence with us in our daily lives:

in our relationships;

in our work and service;

in our worship;

in our times of joy and pain.

Holy Spirit: **Help Us.**

In Jesus’ name: **AMEN**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**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**

**Lead us not into temptation**

**But deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**And the glory are yours**

**Now and for ever. Amen.**

**Closing Prayers**

Generous God, you have nourished us with your word. Take us, bless us and send us, that our lips be touched with the gentleness of your peace ; that our hearts burn with your passion and integrity; that our lives declare the good news of your *love for the whole of creation, in the name of Christ,* ***Amen***

*Faithful God whose Word does not return empty but accomplishes all that you purpose, may your blessings fall like rain to water the earth, nourishing seed for our food, and filling us with the abundance of your love, through Jesus Christ your living Word.* ***Amen.***

**Hymn/Song** [Take Us To The River Robin Mark - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLfPjEIJjkc)

**Take Us To The River: Extended version!!!!**

Take us to the river
Take us there in unity
To sing a song of Your salvation
To win this generation for our King
A song of Your forgiveness
For it is with grace
That river flows
Take us to the river
In the city of our God

Take us to the throne room
And give us ears
To hear the cry of Heaven
For that cry is mercy
Mercy to the fallen sons of men
Mercy it has triumphed
Triumphed over judgement
By Your blood
Take us to the throne room
In the city of our God

The Spirit of the sovereign Lord is upon us
This is the year of the Lord
The Spirit of the sovereign Lord is upon us
This is the year of the Lord

Take us to the mountain
Lift us in the shadow of Your hand
Is this Your mighty angel
Who stands astride the ocean and the land
In His hand Your mercy showers
O'er a dry and barren place
Take us to the mountain
In the city of our God

For the Spirit of the sovereign Lord is upon us
This is the year of the Lord
For the Spirit of the sovereign Lord is upon us
This is the year of the Lord

Take us to the river
In the city of our God

**Dismissal**

**This earth, full of your glory, praises your name
through unspoken words of beauty and peace,
reveals your love through hand of stranger and gift of grace.
This earth, full of your glory, praises your provision
through living water and food to eat,
reveals your Word through daily blessings and breath of life.
This earth, full of your glory, praises your name. As we feast on your Word of Life may the blessing of God, ever three and ever one, be upon us, now and always.**

**Amen.**



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