

Sunday Worship at Home, 5th June 2022, Pentecost



Introduction

Alleluia. Christ is Risen, **He is Risen Indeed Alleluia**

Jesus Christ, whom we worship, is our crucified, risen and ascended Lord and we have walked with him through his journey of love. We have faced the agony of his suffering and death on a cross. We have rejoiced at his bursting free from the bonds of death. We have enjoyed his risen presence with us and his revelation of himself through the breaking of bread. We have seen his return to the throne before which every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that this Jesus is Lord. And now, with the followers of his own time, we await the coming of the promised Holy Spirit, his gift to his people, through whom we make Christ known to the world.

Invitation to confession:

What God has prepared for those who love him, he has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything. Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord, confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Friend of sinners, you bring hope in our despair. **Lord have mercy.**
Healer of the sick, you give strength in our weakness. **Christ have mercy.**
Destroyer of evil, you bring life in our dying. **Lord have mercy.**

May almighty God who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring us his pardon and peace, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Collect (Special 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.**

A Reading from Acts 2:1-6,13-17,21

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. [...] 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. [...] Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Reflection on the Reading:

My grandmother used to say, "There's none so deaf as those who want to be". We remember Pentecost as being the birthday of the church, we remember it as being the day when the Holy Spirit was poured out not just on a few special people, like St Peter, but on everyone, although not everyone chose to receive it. We are told not only that the apostles spoke in different languages, and that Peter the rough fisherman now preached with authority on the scriptures, but also that people from all over the known world heard and understood in the cacophony what was being said. We are also told that some did not hear and understand, or refused to, and instead took the apostles words to be drunken babbling. The gift of the Holy Spirit is mysterious, wonderful, and free, given to us all. It is up to each of us individually to receive it, open it and use it, and when we do, exciting things will happen. So we must make sure we are listening out for it in the cacophony of our busy modern lives. As Jesus himself said "He who has ears, let him hear". **Amen**

A version of the Creed

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

Be still and pray:

God of peace and justice, God of love and healing; we pray for all those in our benefice who are ill at this time, and those who are caring for them whether at home or in hospital; we pray for those struggling with rising cost of fuel and food, and who are fearful of how they may pay for tomorrow; we pray for the people of Ukraine who fear what this day will bring; we pray that those in authority will seek peace and the laying down of weapons; we pray for all your precious children living at risk or in fear, that you would hold and protect them.

Finish with The Lord's Prayer

Conclusion

May God Almighty, Father Son and Holy Spirit, who set the church on fire on the day of Pentecost, bless us and give us his peace. Amen.

Reverend Eddie