



Camel-Allen Churches
Sunday Morning Prayer at Home

31 May 2020



Before we start, have to hand, if possible, a candle and something with which to light it

The Hymns may be sung or said

Welcome,
In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.
Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Today we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples, three thousand were converted, and the church was born.

It is the church's birthday !

Jesus Christ, whom we worship, is our crucified, risen and ascended 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.



Hymn

*Come down, O Love divine
seek now that this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour 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 in 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 loneliness 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 out pass the pow'r of human telling;
nor can we guess its grace,
till we become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.*

As we wait in silence,
fill us with your Spirit.
As we listen to your word,
fill us with your Spirit.
As we worship you in majesty,
fill us with your Spirit.
As we long for your refreshing,
fill us with your Spirit.
As we long for your renewing,
fill us with your Spirit.
As we long for your equipping,
fill us with your Spirit.
As we long for your empowering,
fill us with your Spirit.

Silence is kept.

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES (2.1-13)

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.'

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Be with us, Spirit of God;
nothing can separate us from your love.
Breathe on us, breath of God;
fill us with your saving power.
Speak in us, wisdom of God;
bring strength, healing, and peace.

Blessed are you, sovereign God and eternal Father.
Daily your Spirit renews the face of the earth,
bringing strength out of weakness,
hope out of despair
and life out of death.
By the power of your Spirit,
may your blessing rest upon us.

Form in us the likeness of Christ,
that we may be witnesses of your astonishing love,
and fill us afresh with life in all its fullness.
Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

Let us bless the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Let us praise and bless God for ever.

Hymn

*O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us,
revive your Church with life and pow'r;
O Breath of Life, come cleanse, renew us,
and fit your Church to meet this hour.*

*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 ev'ry part!*

*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.*

*Revive us, Lord; is zeal abating
while harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting -
equip thy church to spread the light.*

Let us each pray silently that the Spirit will work through our lives
to bring Christ to the world.

Silence

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.

CANTICLE

- 1 I will take you from the nations, ♦
and gather you from all the countries.
- 2 I will sprinkle clean water upon you, ♦
and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness.
- 3 A new heart I will give you, ♦
and put a new spirit within you,
- 4 And I will remove from your body the heart of stone ♦
and give you a heart of flesh.
- 5 You shall be my people, ♦
and I will be your God.

The Spirit of God fills the whole world.

Alleluia.



GOSPEL READING

Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia.

John 7:37-39

On the last day of the festival, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water'". Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Reflection

In his post-resurrection appearances, Jesus promised his disciples that, once he was gone, he would send the Holy Spirit to be with us, for ever. Our first reading describes the momentous event when this promise was fulfilled.

The Gospel reading takes the form of a "flashback" to when Jesus was in the Temple, not during the week of his passion, but on an earlier occasion, at the Festival of Tabernacles, when the people remembered their time in the wilderness after escaping slavery in Egypt. For seven days during the festival a priest would lead a procession from the Pool of Siloam carrying a golden pitcher of water to the Temple, where it would be poured out on the altar to recall the time when Moses had

struck a rock in the desert and water had poured out to quench the thirst of the people.

Imagine, then, the scene John describes, on the eighth and final day of this Festival. The Temple would have been packed; and the story of God empowering Moses to bring forth water from a rock very much in the forefront of people's minds. Suddenly, Jesus stands up and cries out in a loud voice that, if anyone is thirsty, they should come to *him* and drink. Moses may have brought holy water out of a barren rock in the arid heat of the desert, but here is Jesus proclaiming to everybody present that he actually *is* the holy, living water of life. The spiritually thirsty should not look back to the story of Moses to quench their thirst but to him, physically present in their midst, and now spiritually present in ours.

"Whoever believes in me", Jesus said, "*streams of living water will flow from him*". John explains that Jesus meant that believers would be filled to overflowing by the living water of the Holy Spirit. But, John says, the Spirit had not yet come because Jesus had not yet been glorified. The scene, therefore, looks forward to the day of Pentecost when, as the resurrected Jesus had promised, the Spirit did, indeed, come and fill the disciples to overflowing. From them the Spirit poured out in streams of living water to all those thousands who heard and were converted.

If, then, we truly believe and trust in Jesus, we too will be filled with the Holy Spirit and streams of living spiritual water will pour forth from each of us, manifesting itself in all that we say and do.

So, let us pray:

**Lord, help our unbelief
And fill us to overflowing with the Holy Spirit;
That your Spirit will flow out from us
In streams of living water,**

**So that all with whom we come into contact
Will come to know you
Through us.
Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us, now, declare our faith in God.

**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.**



We pray for God to fill us with his Spirit...

Generous God,
we thank you for the *power* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better.
Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *wisdom* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to make us wise to understand your will.
Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *peace* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to keep us confident of your love wherever you call us.
Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *healing* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness
where there is division, sickness and sorrow.
Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *gifts* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to equip us for the work which you have given us.
Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *fruit* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to reveal in our lives the love of Jesus.
Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *breath* of your Holy Spirit,
given us by the risen Lord.

We ask you to keep the whole Church, living and departed,
in the joy of eternal life.
Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

Generous God,
you sent your Holy Spirit upon your Messiah at the river Jordan,
and upon the disciples in the upper room:
in your mercy fill us with your Spirit,
**Lord, hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever.
Amen.**

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in
heart.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray together as our Saviour has taught us:

Our Father....



Blessing of Light

Blessed are you, sovereign God, overflowing in love.
With Pentecost dawns the age of the Spirit.
Now the flame of heaven rests on every believer.
Strong and weak, women and men tell out your word;
the young receive visions, the old receive dreams.
With the new wine of the Spirit
they proclaim your reign of love.
Amid the birth pangs of the new creation
the way of light is made known.
Source of freedom, giver of life,
blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

If you have a candle, please now light it.

Hymn

*Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.*

Refrain:

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.*

*Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.*

*As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory;
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.*

For fifty days we have celebrated the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over the powers of sin and death. We have proclaimed God's mighty acts and we have prayed that the power that was at work when God raised Jesus from the dead might be at work in us.

As part of God's Church here in the Camel-Allen Benefice, I call upon you to live out what you proclaim.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, will you dare to walk into God's future, trusting him to be your guide?

By the Spirit's power, we will.

Will you dare to embrace each other and grow together in love?

We will.

Will you dare to minister to each other in need?

We will.

Will you dare to pray for each other until your hearts beat with the longings of God?

We will.

Will you dare to carry the light of Christ into the world's dark places?

We will.

The candles are extinguished in silence.

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Today we have remembered the coming of God's power on the disciples and we invite that same Spirit to drive us out into the wild places of the world.

Weather permitting, and if you are able and feel so inclined, we move outside for the final part of the service

May the Spirit,
who hovered over the waters when the world was created,
breathe into you the life he gives.

Amen.

May the Spirit,
who overshadowed the Virgin when the eternal Son came among us,
make you joyful in the service of the Lord.

Amen.

May the Spirit,
who set the Church on fire upon the Day of Pentecost,
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

Amen.

Filled with the Spirit's power,
let us go in the light and peace of Christ.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

