

Call to worship

Welcome to our 11th virtual Sunday morning service as we celebrate the day of Pentecost – the day when the church was born anew with the power of God; the day when a lifeless, frightened bunch of disciples were changed into people bold enough to take the Gospel across the world, regardless of what dangers lay ahead. Today the same Holy Spirit empowers us to live as Christians and show in our lives that Jesus is alive. As the Apostle Paul – once the prime persecutor of the fledgling Christian church – expressed it his letter to the Romans, chapter 5 verse 5, the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Opening prayer

Almighty God, helps us today to be open to your Spirit, to hear your word, proclaim your glory, and celebrate the Good News of Jesus Christ. Through the light of your Holy Spirit, grant us a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in your holy comfort through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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.**

Confession

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love: fill us with your Spirit. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith: fill us with your Spirit. Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust: fill us with your Spirit. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all of our days.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Opening song

If you would like to pause the service video at this point, go back to the order of service on the website and use the link there for our opening song, which follows our theme of celebrating the mighty power of the Holy Spirit – *Spirit of Holiness*.

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 fullness to me!

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:

Spirit of holiness...

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:

Spirit of holiness...

You came to the world in its pride and futility,
warning of dangers, directing us home;
now with us and in us, we welcome your

company;

Spirit of Christ, in his name you have come:

Spirit of holiness...

I'll hand over to Mark now to bring us God's word and his message for us this morning. Mark.

Reading

Acts 2:1-4 New English Translation (NET Bible)

The Holy Spirit and the Day of Pentecost

2 Now when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like a violent wind blowing came from heaven and filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And tongues spreading out like a fire appeared to them and came to rest on each one of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them. ^[1]

Reflection

The Holy Spirit arrives.

Prayers of intercession

Almighty and Everlasting God, look with favour upon your people. As on this day you sent upon the first disciples the gift of your Holy Spirit, so pour that Spirit out upon us this day. Open our hearts to your living power. Cleanse us from every impurity and forgive our sin as you have promised. Lead us and teach us and grace us with your presence. Grant us the dreams and visions you have promised and make us messengers of the good news of Christ Jesus our Lord. Unite us through the power of your Spirit so that all people may be moved by the witness we make and so that songs of praise may rise to you here and everywhere, both now and for ever more.

Lord, lead us to be peace-makers, building connections between individuals, focusing on

what unites people rather than on what separates us and highlights our differences. Particularly in these unique and challenging times, Lord, it's easy to harm relationships; forgive us the divisions and bitterness that we have created in our homes and families and with friends and colleagues. Enable us to seek for a fresh start and give us the power of your Spirit to use opportunities to build up and make new the bonds between people.

Gracious God, Spirit of Life, surging freely, loving generously, seeking endlessly, move upon the face of our world and embrace all its creatures with grace. Startle the powerful and the humble with your power and tenderness, your purpose and determination, your patience and mercy. Hear our prayers of thankfulness and our requests for your intercession. **Amen.**

Being made one in the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray with confidence as we say together the prayer that Jesus taught us:

The 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 song

If you would like to pause the service again and open our closing song, you can join in or if you prefer simply listen to *Shout to the Lord*.

My Jesus, my Saviour
Lord there is none like You

All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love

My comfort, my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You

Shout to the Lord all the Earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have
In You

My Jesus, my Saviour
Lord there is none like You
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love

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Nothing compares to the promise I have
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Oh nothing compares to the promise I have
Nothing compares to the promise I have
In You

Closing prayer and blessing

Come, Holy Spirit, and make us Pentecost people.
Let your wisdom and right judgement guide our
decisions and temper our impulses. Let
knowledge and understanding increase our
capacity for empathy and compassion. Let
reverence and awe fill us with gratitude and
respect for all of creation. Give us the courage to
witness boldly to our faith in word and deed.

Through and with and in Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us
and remain with us, with all those we love, all
those we care for, and all those we pray for, this
day and evermore. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ Amen