

**WELCOME AND NOTICES:**

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday giving to Mancroft Advice Project  
8<sup>th</sup> June, 10am - Oaks review  
9<sup>th</sup> June, 10am – Wednesday Communion  
10<sup>th</sup> June, 9.30am – TOTS  
Next week: Mike Gibbs and Mike Acaster

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

‘Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline’ (2 Timothy 1:6-7).

**SONG: 10,00 REASONS (BLESS THE LORD)**

[https://youtu.be/DXDGE\\_IRIOE](https://youtu.be/DXDGE_IRIOE)

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,  
Worship His Holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul,  
I'll worship Your Holy name.*

The sun comes up,  
It's a new day dawning.  
It's time to sing Your song again.  
Whatever may pass,  
And whatever lies before me,  
Let me be singing  
When the evening comes.

*Bless the Lord...*

You're rich in love  
And You're slow to anger  
Your name is great  
And Your heart is kind  
For all Your goodness  
I will keep on singing  
Ten thousand reasons  
For my heart to find

*Bless the Lord...*

And on that day  
When my strength is failing  
The end draws near  
And my time has come  
Still my soul will  
Sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years  
And then forevermore

**OPENING PRAYER:**

God of mercy and love, who by your Spirit has awakened our hearts to follow your Son Jesus Christ, accept our worship as an offering of our love. We worship you, Lord, and join with all your people across the world in praising your holy name.

**CONFESSION:**

Psalm 130 says ‘If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O LORD, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness.’

So, LORD, we confess our sins and ask to be forgiven. By the power of your Spirit turn us from evil to good, help us to forgive others, and keep us in your ways of mercy and love; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

As far as the east is from the west, so God has removed our sins from us. Let us give thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Eternal God, we come with these gifts to offer the praise of our lips and the service of our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY GIVING:**

MANCROFT ADVICE PROJECT

**PENTECOST EXPLAINED** with puppets

<https://youtu.be/7TZofFP0WTM>

**SONG: HOLY SPIRIT, LIVING BREATH OF GOD**

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/\\_X2ANTDE1XK](HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/_X2ANTDE1XK)

**Holy Spirit, living breath of God,  
Breathe new life into my willing soul.  
Bring the presence of the risen Lord  
To renew my heart and make me whole.  
Cause Your word to come alive in me,  
Give me faith for what I cannot see;  
Give me passion for Your purity;  
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.**

**Holy Spirit, come abide within,  
May Your joy be seen in all I do.  
Love enough to cover every sin**

**In each thought and deed and attitude:  
Kindness to the greatest and the least,  
Gentleness that sows the path of peace.  
Turn my strivings into works of grace;  
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.**

**Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,  
Giving life to all that God has made,  
Show Your power once again on earth,  
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.  
May the fragrance of our prayers arise;  
Lead us on the road of sacrifice,  
That in unity the face of Christ  
May be clear for all the world to see.**

**READING: Acts 2:22-41**

<sup>22</sup> "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. <sup>23</sup> This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. <sup>25</sup> David said about him:

"I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

<sup>26</sup> Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, <sup>27</sup> because you will not abandon me to the grave, you will not let your holy one see decay. <sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.'

<sup>29</sup> "Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. <sup>30</sup> But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. <sup>32</sup> God has raised this Jesus to life, and we

are all witnesses of the fact. <sup>33</sup> Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. <sup>34</sup> For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

"The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand <sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." <sup>36</sup> "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

<sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" <sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

<sup>40</sup> With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." <sup>41</sup> Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**SERMON: PENTECOST PROMISES (4)  
The Promises Fulfilled**

Last week we began looking at Peter's Pentecost sermon. It is one whole sermon, but I have broken it down into two parts because there is so much in it. The first half of the sermon explains about the coming of the Holy Spirit and how it was a fulfilment of the prophecy of Joel, as we saw last week. But this week the focus of the passage moves from explaining about the coming of the Spirit to explaining about Jesus, his birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension.

In v22 we have the incarnation and ministry of Jesus. 'Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves

know.' It's important for people to know that Jesus was a man. The key question of the Christian faith concerns who Jesus is. Some have denied his humanity, saying he only seemed to be human. This text tells us he was fully human. It also tells us he was accredited by God, which is why he could do the most extraordinary things, such as miracles. So, we have Jesus' incarnation and ministry.

In v23 we have the crucifixion: 'This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge, and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.' It's important for us to know that Jesus died, for some believe he didn't actually die but recovered in the cool of the tomb. This is a lie propagated by those who don't know the truth. If Jesus didn't die, then we are still in our sins and will perish (John 3.16). But Peter, who witnessed the crucifixion, tells the crowd that Jesus did die. The crowd could have disagreed, for they witnessed Jesus' death too, but they knew what had happened. We have the crucifixion.

Then in v24 we have the resurrection: 'But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.' You can't have resurrection without a death. Peter's words here tell us that death had no mastery over Jesus. Although Jesus died, it couldn't keep him dead. The whole of the Christian faith hangs on the resurrection. If Jesus wasn't raised, then he is still in a tomb somewhere in Palestine.

But Peter supports his argument for the resurrection by quoting two mysterious psalms that could only be fulfilled by the Messiah. The first is Psalm 16:8-11, which could not have been fulfilled by its author, David, because it speaks of someone whom the grave could not hold and whose body did not decay. David died and was buried, so he couldn't have been speaking of himself. In v29-33 Peter explained the psalm to his hearers, culminating in the words, 'God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact' (v32). Eyewitness accounts are very powerful. Don't be afraid to tell people what you've seen and heard of Jesus. Also Peter

explained that because Jesus was raised, he has sent the promised Holy Spirit.

The second psalm that Peter quotes is Psalm 110:1. Again, the psalm could not have been speaking about David because David didn't ascend to heaven (v34). Therefore, it must be speaking about the resurrected Messiah. These two Psalms that Peter uses in his Pentecost sermon can only be understood in the light of Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension.

Many in the crowd would have known about Jesus because they would have seen and heard him, and even witnessed his death. And so Peter concluded his message to the crowd with these words: 'Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ' (v36). Using these two titles Peter would have appealed to both Jews and Gentiles.

This sermon was full of Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit and full of Scripture, so much so that the crowd listening were cut to the heart. The sermon made an impact and they asked 'Brothers, what shall we do?' (v37). We can hear many fine sermons and they do nothing for us. That's not to say the sermon was bad or wrong, but simply that we were not moved by it. That may be the case today as I am speaking. But there are times when we hear a sermon and it speaks straight to our heart. It speaks truth right to the very depths of our being.

The pastor and preacher Charles Swindoll tells the story of the wife of one of one of his church leaders who came to him and said, "My husband and I have been down at the beach for the past week, and my husband has walked the beach for hours and hours in the greatest agony. After several days he finally came in and threw himself down on the couch and wept for three hours. Then he asked Christ into his heart." A surprising story of a church leader being convicted by the Holy Spirit and converted to Christ.

In the same way, there are those who are professing Christians who need Christ. They've heard but they haven't heard. Is that you? Next week Mike begins for us a new series looking at

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the Beatitudes, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven' (Matt 5:3). There is a sense that living the Christian life is one thing, knowing Christ is quite another, and we begin the Christian life by being poor in spirit, just as the crowd were as they listened to Peter. If you have never known emptiness then you will never know the fulness of Christ. We need to come to the end of ourselves to be fully open to Christ and his Spirit.

Many years ago I remember training to be a voluntary youth worker for Youth for Christ when during a training session I just started to weep. Someone asked me what was wrong and I said that I didn't know. Later on a senior leader in the organisation said to me that they had prayed for me and didn't discern what was wrong and why I had been in tears. I responded that I had seen the poverty of my relationship with Christ and it broke my heart. Is that your experience? Do you long to know Christ, really know him? Then do what the crowd did that Pentecost and repent, repent of your sins that separate you from God. If you've not been baptised, then be baptised and wash away your guilt. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

This is a time between times, what theologians called a liminal time. For us as a church we are in a time between times. The old has gone but the new hasn't yet come. The temptation is to want to go back to what was before, but we can't. We can never go back to what was before. It's a new day. We are in this season between seasons, a time between times. In such times we are called to wait upon God. These times are very frustrating for those who are active and want just to get on. But we have to resist the temptation just to be active, and learn to wait upon the Lord. The Israelites in the desert had to wait 40 years, and they only moved when the pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night moved. Only then. That's not to say Tots can't start or anything else. But we must learn to wait on the Lord, all of us, discerning what the Lord is saying to us now. And this is the task of all God's people, not just me. This time between times is not wasted time, it's a time when God does something in us to prepare

us for what is the next chapter. However, unless we are prepared to wait, we will miss what the Lord is saying and doing. If we just keep on doing the things we've always done, we will bear little fruit and we will miss the Lord's directing into the new thing he has for us. So, let's learn to wait and learn to listen. Peter couldn't preach his Pentecost sermon in the power of the Spirit before Pentecost. He had to wait for the Spirit to come, and only then could he speak with such power and effectiveness. The result was 3000 being added to the church that day, for they waited for the Spirit. We need to wait, listen and move in God's timing. This period will be frustrating but if we wait then we will see fruit.

Let's pray.

*Father God, we thank you for the work of the Holy Spirit. We pray for those who seem to have it all together on the outside but do not know you, that you would bring them to the place of the 3000 on the day of Pentecost. Give them ears to hear. We pray for ourselves, that we may truly know you, that our relationship may deepen in this Pentecost season; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**SONG: THE GREATEST THING IN ALL MY LIFE (PPT)**

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/GG2FCPP34QA](https://youtu.be/gg2fcpp34qa)

**The greatest thing in all my life is knowing You;  
The greatest thing in all my life is knowing You;  
I want to know You more;  
I want to know You more.**

**The greatest thing in all my life is knowing You.**

**The greatest thing in all my life is loving You;  
The greatest thing in all my life is loving You;  
I want to love You more;  
I want to love You more.**

**The greatest thing in all my life is loving You.**

**The greatest thing in all my life is serving You;  
The greatest thing in all my life is serving You;  
I want to serve You more;**

**I want to serve You more.**

**The greatest thing in all my life is serving You.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

Gracious Lord, we pray for the world in which you have placed us. We pray for the continuing battle with covid across the world. We pray for Bishop Raj and Pastor Gladson and family, and thank you that they are keeping well. We pray for Pastor Sam and the children and staff at the Bethesda orphanage, that they also may keep covid free. We pray for others around the world who need life-saving oxygen and vaccines.

Lord, we pray for those known to us who need our prayers. We pray for Alistair as he continues treatment in hospital. We pray for John Comerford and Ray Simpson as they both recover at home, having been in hospital. We pray for Robert Young as he continues to struggle with his health following his surgery. We pray for Helen Blake that her time at Ellel would have been a blessing. We pray for Bob and Christine's granddaughter, Sophie, as she recovers from surgery. May they may each know the healing touch of our Saviour.

We pray for the family of Charles Butler following his funeral this week, that in their grief they may find comfort in your promises. And we pray for others we know, especially those on our hearts today who are grieving. Mike & Jan following the interment of Mike's mum's ashes.

Lord, we pray for those in our community who are looking for meaning and purpose in their lives, for those who feel empty and long for peace and hope. Like the crowd on the day of Pentecost, may they find the truth in you, and come to know you personally.

Finally, we pray for ourselves. Lord, you know our needs even before we ask. So we bring ourselves to you, our worries, our weaknesses, our hopes. Lord, may we learn to wait on you and be still enough to hear your voice.

All these things we pray in the name of Jesus our Lord and Messiah. **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.  
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.**

**SONG: IN CHRIST ALONE**

<https://youtu.be/rn9-UNer6MQ>

**In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied –  
For every sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground his body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain:  
Then bursting forth to glorious day,  
Up from the grave he rose again!  
And as he stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am his and he is mine –  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from his hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

**CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING**

Lord Jesus, by your death and resurrection you have opened the way to eternal life. By your Spirit you draw our hearts to walk in your ways of

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truth and love. Now we give ourselves to live for you and to make you known in the world, for your glory's sake. **Amen.**

And now may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father who loves you, the Son who gave his life for you, and the Spirit who lives within you, be with you now and for evermore. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Music after the service

Oceans

<https://youtu.be/TZomtjU7Fz4>