

WELCOME AND NOTICES

Arts Festival 25-26th June
Arts Festival meeting – Tuesday 14 June,
1.30pm
Barley Court service – Thursday 16th June,
11am

CALL TO WORSHIP

‘Faith comes from hearing the message,
and the message is heard through the
Word of Christ’ (Romans 10:17).

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, we come to you today to
praise and worship you, to listen to your
Word, and to be equipped by your Spirit
to go out into the world to make your
name known. Send your Holy Spirit to
inspire and guide us, for your glory’s sake.

Amen.

SONGS

I’m gonna trust in God
The Lord’s my shepherd (I will trust in you
alone)
Faithful God

CONFESSION

We confess our sinfulness before the
mercy of our Heavenly Father.

**Lord, you are steadfast in your love and
infinite in your mercy; you welcome
sinners and invite them to be your
guests. We confess our sins, trusting in
you to forgive us.**

We have yielded to temptation and
sinned:

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

We have turned from our neighbours in
their need:

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

We have resisted your Word in our hearts:

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

May Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and keep us in life
eternal. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY

‘The earth is the Lord’s and everything in
it’ (Psalm 24:1). Lord, all we have comes
from you, and from your own have we
given you. Bless now our giving and our
living for your kingdom’s sake. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR SUNDAY CLUB

Loving Lord, you took children in your
arms and blessed them. Bless now the
children here today, along with those who
will lead them. **Amen.**

READING: Acts 2:14-37

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven,
raised his voice and addressed the
crowd: ‘Fellow Jews and all of you who
live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to
you; listen carefully to what I

say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as
you suppose. It’s only nine in the
morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was
spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ ‘In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all
people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and
women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.
¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.
²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
²¹ And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved."
²² '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. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ David said about him:

"I saw the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.
²⁶ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest in hope,
²⁷ because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
you will not let your holy one see decay.
²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life;

you will fill me with joy in your presence."

²⁹ 'Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰ 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. ³¹ Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. ³³ 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. ³⁴ For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

"The Lord said to my Lord:

'Sit at my right hand

³⁵ until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet.'"

³⁶ 'Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.'

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

REFLECTION: THE CHURCH ON FIRE (2)

Spirit-filled preaching

Not all sermons are memorable, but then neither are all meals, but at least we know we have been fed. I pray that today's sermon may feed your spirit. After all, the title for this sermon is 'Spirit-filled preaching', which means I have to practice what I preach!

On the day of Pentecost, the followers of Jesus were filled with the Holy Spirit and they found themselves declaring the good news of Jesus to those present in Jerusalem from all over the Mediterranean region. The crowd wondered what this all meant, as they heard the disciples speaking about the wonders of God in their own language (v11). So Peter got up to explain what all this meant, and gave the sermon of his life.

This Pentecost sermon was extraordinary and memorable for a number of reasons. Firstly, because the man preaching had fifty days earlier denied even knowing Jesus. Now here was Peter preaching one of the greatest sermons in history where three thousand people turned to Christ at the end of Peter's message. The greatest number of people I've ever preached to is 800. It was also a Pentecost sermon, but mine was on a beach in Weymouth. I illustrated my sermon using the example a train. Now I got a number of people thanking me for my message afterwards. But one man came up to me and asked if I had an interest in trains because I had likened the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost being like the steam that powered the steam train that used to come into Weymouth harbour. He

thought I was a train buff. Not the reaction I had hoped for!

I once heard of a preacher preaching the gospel in the Middle East. He felt the Holy Spirit was present and there would be a great reaction. When he called for people to turn to Christ and only a handful put up their hand to receive Christ, he was disappointed until his host told him that for those men who raised their hand it was a death sentence. They may not even make it home. Peter got a reaction and all Spirit-filled preaching will do the same.

Peter's message answered the question that people were asking. With the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the crowd asked 'What does this mean?' Peter's message was simple. He simply explained what had happened (v14-21). He began his sermon by explaining the phenomenon of the Holy Spirit by announcing, "This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel" (v16). In other words, this is nothing that the prophets haven't told you about already, but now that day has come.

Joel's prophecy told of the dawn of a wonderful new age, where 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved' (v21). And that includes you present here today. If you have never called on Jesus' name and invited him into your life, you need to do it today. You never know when your life may end. We had Lee's funeral on Tuesday. He was only 58. This is a reminder that none of us know when our life will come to an end. So, why wait because one day it will be too late. If you are here today it's because God had put it in your heart to be here, and he wants you to put your faith in his Son Jesus.

Peter also quotes Psalms 16 and 110 and referenced the great king of Israel, King David. These two Psalms can only be understood if we believe in the resurrection and ascension of Jesus. In fact in Peter's sermon, Christ's incarnation, his crucifixion, his resurrection and ascension are all mentioned, which is another reason why his sermon was so great. It was a message filled with the Scriptures, filled with Christ, and filled with the Holy Spirit.

Being full of the Holy Spirit, Peter's sermon not only explained what was happening with the coming of the Holy Spirit, but his sermon also explained about Jesus (v22-37). Peter says in v22 "Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs...". And then in v36 Peter says "God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." The sermon was about Jesus. It focussed the crowd's mind on the one they had seen crucified and who was raised from death.

It was also a great sermon because of what it did to those listening. Like any good sermon, it's only good because of what it does to us. You see, sermons are not primarily about information but transformation. We come not to have our ears tickled with something interesting but to have our hearts moved. And 3000 people on the day of Pentecost had their hearts moved. The people were cut to the heart. This sermon began by answering the question "What does this mean?" (v12) and ended with the question, "What shall we do?" (v37). So, it was a sermon that led people to take action. So, what

action can you take from this Pentecost sermon?

Firstly, make sure you have called on the name of the Lord, as I mentioned a few moments ago.

Secondly, make sure you are open to the Holy Spirit in your own life, so that you are led by the Spirit each and every day. Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:19 'Do not put out the Spirit's fire.' We put out the Spirit's fire through wilful sin and through disobedience to God's Word.

Thirdly, if you have never known emptiness in your life, you will not know the fulness of Christ in your life. If you have never come to the end of yourself and become 'poor in spirit' then you will not be able to start with Christ. We are invited to come in humility and with honesty before God and allow him to speak to us, just as he spoke to the 3000. There were many others that day who did not hear what the 3000 heard and did not respond in a way the 3000 responded. How will you respond to Christ today?

PRAYERS led by Christine McGrath

SONG: BEAUTY FOR BROKENNESS

HOLY COMMUNION (Methodist)

In Christ, God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through his blood which was shed on the cross.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessing and praise belong to you, gracious and eternal God. Through your living Word you created all things, the majesty of the heavens and the glory of the earth. In your wisdom and goodness you have made all people in your image and likeness.

Therefore with saints and angels and with all creation we lift up our voices to proclaim the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of
the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy and gracious God, we give you thanks and praise that in the fulness of time you gave your only Son to share our human nature and to be tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin; to set his face resolutely towards Jerusalem and to be lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw to all creation to himself. When the hour of his glory came, and loving his own until the end, he sat with them at supper, took bread and, after giving thanks to you, he broke it and gave it his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way he took the cup after supper, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

In obedience to his command we recall his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension, and we look for his coming in glory. Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of Christ.

In union with Christ's offering for us, we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice. Unite us in love and peace with all your people until, with the whole company of heaven, we are brought into the presence of your eternal glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Through him, with him, and in him, in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and
glory are yours, almighty Father, now and
for ever. Amen.**

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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

Christ is the Bread of Life.

The cup we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Christ is the true vine.

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Receive this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ and feed on the Lamb of God with reverence and faith.

The body of Christ broken for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**

Gracious God, we thank you that you have nourished us with the bread of life and with the cup of salvation. May we who have received this sacrament be strengthened in your service; we who have sung your praises live in your glory; and we who have known of your love see you face to face in your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG: Be thou my vision

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

The God of all grace who has called you to eternal glory in Christ, make you perfect, confirming and strengthening you by his Spirit; and to him be the power for ever and ever. **Amen.**

And the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you, now and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.