

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP:

The LORD says, “Look at the nations and watch – and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.” (Habakkuk 1:5)

SONGS:

O GOD OF CLEANSING BURNING FLAME (SEND THE FIRE)

O God of burning, cleansing flame, send the fire!

Your blood-bought gift today we claim:

Send the fire today!

Look down and see this waiting host,

And send the promised Holy Ghost;

We need another Pentecost!

Send the fire today! Send the fire today!

God of Elijah, hear our cry: Send the fire!

And make us fit to live or die:

Send the fire today!

To burn up every trace of sin,

To bring the light and glory in,

The revolution now begin!

Send the fire today! Send the fire today!

It's fire we want, for fire we plead: Send the fire!

The fire will meet our every need:

Send the fire today!

For strength to always do what's right,

For grace to conquer in the fight,

For power to walk the world in white:

Send the fire today! Send the fire today!

To make our weak hearts strong and brave:

Send the fire!

To live, a dying world to save:

Send the fire today!

Oh, see us on Your altar lay,

We give our lives to you today,

So crown the offering now we pray:

Send the fire today!

Send the fire today!

Send the fire today!

HOLY SPIRIT, WE WELCOME YOU

Holy Spirit, we welcome you.

Holy Spirit, we welcome you.

Move among us with holy fire,

**As we lay aside all earthly desires;
Hands reach out and our hearts aspire.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome you.**

**Holy Spirit, we welcome you.
Holy Spirit, we welcome you.
Let the breeze of your presence blow,
that your children here might truly know
How to move in the Spirit's flow.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome you.**

**Holy Spirit, we welcome you.
Holy Spirit, we welcome you.
Please accomplish in me today
some new work of loving grace, I pray;
Unreservedly have your way.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome you.**

THERE MUST BE MORE THAN THIS

**There must be more than this
O Breath of God, come breathe within.
There must be more than this:
Spirit of God, we wait for You.
Fill us anew, we pray;
Fill us anew, we pray.**

**Consuming fire, fan into flame
A passion for Your name.
Spirit of God, fall in this place.
Lord, have Your way,
Lord, have Your way with us.**

**Come like a rushing wind,
Clothe us with power from on high.
Now set the captives free;
Leave us abandoned to Your praise.
Lord, let Your glory fall;
Lord, let Your glory fall.
Consuming fire, fan into flame
A passion for Your name.
Spirit of God, fall in this place.
Lord, have Your way,
Lord, have Your way with us.**

OPENING PRAYER AND CONFESSION

Faithful God, you fulfilled the promise of Easter by sending your Holy Spirit and opening the way of eternal life to all people.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people, and kindle in us the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us confess our sins to God who is holy.

Gracious and holy God, We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbour. Your Spirit gives light, but we have preferred darkness; Your Spirit gives wisdom, but we have been foolish; Your Spirit gives power, but we have trusted in our own strength. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, Forgive our sins, and enable us by your Spirit to serve you in joyful obedience, To the glory of your name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for the law of the Spirit of life has set us free from the law of sin and death.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

NOTICES, BANNS OF MARRIAGE AND TIME OF SHARING

- Church meeting after the service
- Banns of Sebastian Henry Le-Bon Olive and Orsolya Pocsik – 3rd time of asking
- Maintenance morning – Saturday 8th June
- Youth event 7pm Saturday 8th June.

OFFERTORY SONG:

I GIVE YOU ALL THE HONOUR

**I give you all the honour,
And praise that's due Your name,
For You are the King of glory,
The Creator of all things.**

**And I worship You,
I give my life to You,
I fall down on my knees.
Yes, I worship You,
I give my life to You,
I fall down on my knees.**

**As Your Spirit moves upon me now
You meet my deepest need,
And I lift my hands up to Your throne,**

Your mercy I've received.

**And I worship You,
I give my life to You,
I fall down on my knees.
Yes, I worship You,
I give my life to You,
I fall down on my knees.**

**You have broken chains that bound me,
You've set this captive free;
I will lift my voice to praise Your name
For all eternity.**

**And I worship You,
I give my life to You,
I fall down on my knees.
Yes, I worship You,
I give my life to You,
I fall down on my knees**

OFFERTORY PRAYER & PRAYER FOR SUNDAY CLUB

Lord our God, we bring before you our gifts and our lives as an offering of worship to you. Bless now these gifts and bless each member of the Sunday Club that today they may discover the wonder of that first Pentecost when you sent you Holy Spirit upon the believers. Whether we are young or old, send now your Spirit as we open your Word that we may hear your voice; to the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**

READING: Acts 2:1-21 – Raymond

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. 5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: 'Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs – we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!' 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, 'What does this mean?'

4 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."

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

REFLECTION: PENTECOST (1) Come Holy Spirit

How many of you do spring cleaning? Do you enjoy it? Did you know that Pentecost is God's spring cleaning, the spring cleaning of our lives.

Last year I spoke about the Jewish background to the feast of Pentecost. We waved wheat as a reminder that Pentecost was the first fruits of the harvest given to God.

The giving of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was on exactly the same day as the giving of Law in the Old Testament. Just as the Law was given through Moses to all God's people, we read that the giving of the Spirit at Pentecost was given to all Jesus' followers. Through being filled with the Spirit the followers of Jesus would desire to live in God's way and, most importantly, have the power to do it.

This week I was reading Judges 16 when Samson's father-in-law gave his daughter, Samson's wife, to another man. Samson was so mad he tied 300 foxes together and lit their tails and sent the foxes into the harvest fields of the Philistines. In the New Testament Jesus said he came to bring fire upon the earth (Luke 12:49). What did he do? He took 70 disciples, linked them up two by two and gave them authority to preach the gospel, to heal the sick, to cast out demons and to raise the dead, and sent them into the ripe harvest fields of people.

When Samson watched those foxes, what if when he tied them together, he had forgotten to light their tails? What would have happened? Absolutely nothing. This is my point. We cannot work for Jesus without the fire of the Holy Spirit. We can work ourselves to the bone and see no results. We can wear ourselves out and see no fruitful harvest. But Jesus promised, 'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you' (Acts 1:8). Power! Holy Spirit power from heaven. It was the same power that created the universe that was present on the day of Pentecost, the same power that came to rest on the 120 believers who then declared the wonders of God to all the people in their own languages.

At Pentecost the Apostles were filled with God's Spirit and bore powerful witness to Jesus and his resurrection from the dead. Three thousand accepted the message of Christ crucified and risen. The three thousand were like the first sheaf of the crop, a kind of sign that the harvest was about to begin. And when we look closely at the story of the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai, we can see parallels with this event. Moses went up the mountain; Jesus has gone up to heaven. Moses came down with the Law; Jesus came down again not with the Law but with the Spirit who writes the Law of God on our hearts.

Before his death and resurrection Jesus said, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever – the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you" (John 14:16-18). The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus.

When the people gathered because they had heard the sound of the Holy Spirit, the sound of a mighty wind, Peter declared to them, "God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. 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" (Acts 2:32-33). And when the people heard Peter's message, we are told that they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Their hearts were broken by Peter's powerful words and the softening touch of the Holy Spirit upon their hearts. They were baptised and received two gifts – the gift of forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Speaking of gifts, in Hebrew Pentecost was called the day of Mattan. The Mattan was the gift a bridegroom would send to the bride when they were separated before the wedding. He would send her a gift to strengthen her, to beautify her, and to give her assurance that he was coming for her. He had not forgotten her. It was called the Mattan. Mattan means the gift. Two thousand years ago, the bride, which is the church, was separated from the bridegroom, who is the Lord Jesus in heaven. So, the Lord Jesus sent a Mattan, a gift, the gift of the Holy Spirit to strengthen the church, to strengthen you, to beautify you, to encourage you, to assure you that he is coming for you. The gift of the Holy Spirit is your bridal gift, your engagement gift.

Now Pentecost can no more be reduced to interesting Old Testament echoes any more than a hurricane can be reduced to a meteorologist's chart. You may look at the chart, but it's a completely different experience actually being in the wind! At Pentecost the wind of the Spirit swept through the disciples like a hurricane! Then the Holy Spirit swept through the crowd like a hurricane! And the Spirit must sweep through us if our lives are to be transformed. The Spirit comes to transform our hearts so that we are on fire with the love of God. The Spirit comes to transform our speech so that the effects of Babel are reversed. Luke tells us that 'each one heard [the apostles] speaking in [their] own language' (v6). In the story of the Tower of Babel we have the diversification of language. At Pentecost we have the Spirit enabling all people present to hear the good news in their own language. We all need language to communicate, even if it is sign language or body language! Language is something that is part of what it means to be human. The believers at Pentecost were liberated in language in order that the good news could be told and heard.

It was the German Evangelist, Reinhard Bonkke who said, "Without the fire of the Holy Spirit, we cannot work effectively for Jesus. It's the fire of the Holy Spirit that gives power to the Christian." We need to pray for the power of the Spirit, that we might be liberated in language, and both willing and able to communicate the good news of Jesus in word and action. God longs to give the Holy Spirit to people, and all we have to do is ask. What the Spirit will do when he comes is anyone's guess. But we should be prepared for wind and fire, for a drastic spring-cleaning of our lives, and for our tongues to be freed to speak of Jesus. Do you long for that? Do not doubt that God will give his Spirit to those who ask him, and do not doubt that the result will be joyful obedience and faith in response to God's Spirit. The title of this message is 'Come Holy Spirit!' Jesus said, "How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:13).

So let's ask. Come, Holy Spirit.

Do you need God to liberate your tongue to speak of him and to worship him?

Come, Holy Spirit!

Do you need your heart to be changed, to be transformed with the fire of God's love?

Come, Holy Spirit!

Do you need to know the forgiveness of God deep within you?

Come, Holy Spirit!

Do you need to have your mind opened to understand the Scriptures?

Come, Holy Spirit!

Do you need the joy and freedom which only God can give?

Come, Holy Spirit!

Do you need a fresh anointing of God's Spirit because you have become stale and tired in your walk with the Lord?

Come, Holy Spirit!

Whatever you need, invite the Holy Spirit to come into your life and fill you with his mighty power. This power is not for yourself just so you can feel different; it is so that you can serve the Lord in the way he chooses with power from on high. Let's pray.

Mighty God, Holy God, breathe within us the anointing of your Holy Spirit, clothe us with power from on high for your glory's sake, that we might be all you made us to be, that might do all you created us to do; in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Godwin Unazi

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.**

SONG: SONG:

GREAT IS THE DARKNESS

**Great is the darkness that covers the earth,
oppression, injustice and pain.
Nations are slipping in hopeless despair,
though many have come in Your name.
Watching while sanity dies,
touched by the madness and lies.**

**Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,
pour out Your Spirit we pray.
Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,
pour out Your Spirit on us today.**

**May now Your church rise with power and love,
this glorious gospel proclaim.
In every nation salvation will come
to those who believe in Your name.
Help us bring light to this world
that we might speed Your return.**

**Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,
pour out Your Spirit we pray.
Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,
pour out Your Spirit on us today.**

**Great celebrations on that final day
when out of the heavens You come.
Darkness will vanish, all sorrow will end,
and rulers will bow at Your throne.
Our great commission complete,
then face to face we shall meet.**

**Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,
pour out Your Spirit we pray.
Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,
pour out Your Spirit on us today.**

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

Gracious Lord, giver of every good gift, we thank and praise you for the gift of your Holy Spirit, to empower us to serve you in the world and declare your good news. Fill us each and every day this week with your mighty power and your perfect peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

BE STILL, FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

**Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here;
Come bow before Him now
with reverence and fear.
In Him no sin is found,
we stand on holy ground;
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here.**

**Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
with splendour He is crowned.
How awesome is the sight,
our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.**

**Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him,
in faith receive from Him;
Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.**