

Sunday 31st May 2020 Pentecost

"Then afterward I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions." Joel 2:28

OPENING PRAYER

As the wind turns the blades of the wind turbines
that generate power to sustain our society;
so the wind of God's Spirit fills us
and refreshes us.

As the fire renews the undergrowth as heather is burned
by bursting open the seeds of life;
so the fire of God's Spirit
brings renewal to our lives.

Wind and fire,
symbols of energy and power;
Holy Spirit, source of our energy and power,
sweep into our lives this day,
that we may experience your refreshment,
your renewal, your life. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Each of the sentences in this prayer has an open end and a question mark for you to consider 'What if?'. After a few moments of thought pray or sing the two lines of the song.

The prophets proclaimed that there would be visions and dreams, but if we are so set in our ways that we have stopped dreaming:?
Spirit of the living God
Fall afresh on me

There were sounds of wind and tongues of fire, but if we never expect anything new to happen in our lives or in our church:?
Spirit of the living God
Fall afresh on me

The disciples were empowered to speak about God in a language understood by everyone. When we are tongue-tied when asked to speak about our faith:?
Spirit of the living God
Fall afresh on me

Pentecost is about being empowered by the Holy Spirit - yet too often we feel powerless and overwhelmed by fear of an increasingly aggressive world:?
Spirit of the living God
Fall afresh on me

Gracious and merciful God, grant us your forgiveness and refresh and renew us with the Holy Spirit so that we become eager, strong, and vital disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen

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If you don't know or can't remember the song Spirit of the Living God then here they are to listen to.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShhUWVKZnEk>

MEDITATION

In the beginning,
God breathed a world into being.

The story of life began,
and ever since then,
no two beings , no two events
are ever the same.

The Creator of the universe
spoke justice and peace
deep into prophets' minds and
hearts.

Then...
When listening ears were hard to
find
God breathed a Word into being.

This Word spoke welcome.

Inviting us
to follow the way he travelled
to seek the truth he spoke
to live the life he lived.

He taught us to pray
even when words fail us.

He emptied himself of self
and filled himself
with others.

He commanded us to love
as he loved us.

His love...
betrayed by evil ,
conspiring minds,
hung painfully there
on a cross of wood
for all to see.

And rose again for all to share.

And then...

God breathed the church into being
with wind and fire -
energy let loose
into the world.
Propelling us into a future
undreamed of - God's future.

The Holy Spirit
emerges anytime,
anywhere
to breathe new life into people,
into us.

To breathe us creative
with that kind of breath
makes us tellers of the story.
The story of God.
The story of Christ.

Inviting us to listen to the stories of
others,
to hear and to heal,
to learn and to love,
to bless and renew lives
with grace and peace
justice and hope
at heart.

To let God be author in us
is to let something happen,
is to upset the order
we may have pre-arranged,
whiting it out,
to begin again, and again, and again
as God does
till we too
make something new.

Today means
hearts purified by flame,
thoughts shaken loose by wind,
equipping us with power
to tell the story of God's love
as we know it in Jesus.

The question is – are we ready?