

st JOHN'S

Living God's Love

Reflections & Prayers Day of Pentecost 2021



StJohnsAL5

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The Holy Spirit transformed fearful apostles into courageous witnesses to Christ. They received the gift to preach the Gospel in all languages and on that day 3,000 people were baptized and converted. From these humble beginning the Church of Christ spread to every land which is why we consider Pentecost to be the birthday of the Church. Ever since the Holy Spirit has guided and strengthened the Church and still continues to do so today.

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Readings for this Sunday

These are the readings for this Sunday which you may like to read in your bibles at home.

Acts 2.1-21

Romans 8. 22-27

John 15: 26-27; 16.4b - 15

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and

proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.’ All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

“In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Reflection for Pentecost from Christian Aid

Pentecost was actually the Jewish 'Spring Harvest'. A time to look forward and pray for God’s provision for the rest of the year. It was a day to celebrate and to pray. A day to look forward to the rich harvest that God willing, was in store.

This explains why Acts chapter two tells us that 'there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven'. They were there for the festival and it was on that very day that God chose to send the Holy Spirit on the disciples.

The day that was set aside to celebrate the forthcoming harvest, was the day the harvest of souls for Gods kingdom began in earnest. God certainly knows how to time things. That very day about 3000 people were brought home. No wonder Jesus had earlier said to the disciples:

The Harvest is plentiful.... Pray the Lord of the Harvest to send workers in the harvest field.

On the day of Pentecost those workers were equipped by the Spirit, went out into the field and reaped an incredible harvest.

Today – nothing has changed. The harvest is still plentiful, the labourers are still too few, and the same Holy Spirit is still ours! All we need to do is to allow the Holy Spirit to fill us, then to go out into the field and who knows what the result will be for the Kingdom of God.

We may not be able to literally ‘go out into the field’ at the moment, but we can still pray, we can still be generous with our time and money, we can still speak out for justice.

In Galatians chapter six, Paul makes a statement which seems particularly appropriate and apt for the strange times we find ourselves living in. He says 'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.'

Thank God that we can count on the indwelling Holy Spirit to keep us going.

Every blessing this Pentecost.

Prayers

Intercession for the day of Pentecost

We pray for God to fill us with his Spirit.

Generous God, we thank you for the *power* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better.

Lord, come to bless us **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *wisdom* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to make us wise to understand your will.

Lord, come to bless us **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *peace* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to keep us confident of your love wherever you call us.
Lord, come to bless us **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *healing* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness
where there is division, sickness and sorrow.
Lord, come to bless us **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *gifts* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to equip us for the work which you have given us.
Lord, come to bless us **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *fruit* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to reveal in our lives the love of Jesus.
Lord, come to bless us **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *breath* of your Holy Spirit, given us by the risen Lord.
We ask you to keep the whole Church, living and departed,
in the joy of eternal life.
Lord, come to bless us **and fill us with your Spirit.**

Generous God,
you sent your Holy Spirit upon your Messiah at the river Jordan,
and upon the disciples in the upper room:
in your mercy fill us with your Spirit,
**hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.**

Parish Prayers for the week ahead

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Sunday	The Anglican Church of Melanesia
Monday	The Diocese of Caledonia – The Anglican Church of Canada
Tuesday	The Diocese of Calgary – The Anglican Church of Canada
Wednesday	The Diocese of California – The Episcopal Church
Thursday	The Diocese of Northern California – The Episcopal Church

Friday The Diocese of Cameroon – The Church of the Province of West Africa

Saturday The Diocese of El Camino Real – The Episcopal Church

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

Sunday Parish of Layston with Buntingford (Deanery of Buntingford)

Monday Parish of Meesden (Deanery of Buntingford)

Tuesday Parish of Newnham (Deanery of Buntingford)

Wednesday Parish of Reed and Buckland (Deanery of Buntingford)

Thursday Parish of Royston (Deanery of Buntingford)

Friday Parish of Rushden (Deanery of Buntingford)

Saturday Parish of Sandon (Deanery of Buntingford)

For the homes and families in:

Sunday Green Lane Close, Greenway

Monday Grove Avenue, Grove Road

Tuesday Hadleigh Court, Hammondswick

Wednesday Hatching Green, Hatching Green Close

Thursday Hawsley Road, Hawthorn Close

Friday Heath Close, High Elms

Saturday High Firs Crescent, Highfield Avenue

The Sick:

Amy, Claire, Sue, Christine, Hermione, Karen, Chris and all whose names are entered on our St Luke's Cell Prayer List.

For the recently deceased:

John Drysdale, Sheila Tilbrook

On their year's mind:

Rita Gardner, Lakeram Heerah, Therese Hamill

A reminder... of this phone service:

Daily Hope – dial 0800 804 8044 for prayer, reflection, music and worship services from the Church of England. A weekly service is available from 9 am every Sunday.

Church at home:

We are delighted to produce each week these printed papers. If you would prefer not to receive these papers each week, please let Julie in the parish office know. If you are aware of others in the parish who would also value the opportunity to worship at home in this way, do please contact a member of the Ministry team or Julie (Parish Office Tel: 01582 712776).