

## 2026 05 24 WORSHIP AT HOME PENTECOST

Dear friends,

Here we are, ready to celebrate Pentecost, that great day when the Holy Spirit breathed life into the Apostles – and does so today into each one of us. On the first Pentecost the apostles were empowered by an ecstatic experience and were inspired to speak about God's power. We, too, are empowered by the Holy Spirit – may we use that power as God wishes in our lives.

Every blessing, Margaret

---

---

### Call to worship;

As the first disciples gathered, so we gather through our joining in this Worship at Home, and we pray: Holy Spirit, infuse our worship with your language of praise – inspire our hearts with your heart of love – transform our lives with your flames of confidence – empower us with your energy and your vision – refresh us with your streams of living water.

Holy Spirit, we reach out to you in anticipation and in trust. Amen.

God of the universe – send your Holy Spirit to renew and refresh your world, that we, and creation in all its colour and all its diversity, may sing out your praise and celebrate your presence among us.

Send streams of living water where our hearts are parched, and sprinkle showers of grace and peace in all areas of conflict and need.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Shake us, Lord.

Shake us out of complacency – out of fearfulness – out of our comfort zones.

Shake us out of our church and into our world to speak out your word afresh. Amen.

### The words to 'Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost' by Christopher Wordsworth [1807-1885]

StF 379

1 Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost, taught by you, we covet most,  
of your gifts at Pentecost, holy, heavenly love.

2 Faith that mountains could remove, tongues of earth or heaven above,  
knowledge, all things, empty prove without heavenly love.

3 Prophecy will fade away, melting in the light of day;  
love will ever with us stay: therefore give us love.

4 Love is kind, and suffers long, love is meek, and thinks no wrong,  
love than death itself more strong: therefore give us love.

5 Faith, and hope, and love we see, joining hand in hand agree;  
but the greatest of the three, and the best, is love.

### Prayer:

Almighty God, your being lightens our darkness.

It melts our cold hearts and warms us to the core. It reveals truth to us and shows us the way.

It leads us on and speaks in ways we can know and feel.

Almighty God, your being is the essence of our being – the source of our life – the purpose of our living – the cleansing of our sin – the justification of your creation.

Almighty God, you are the one we adore – faithful, unshakeable, for ever. Amen.

O God, despite our failings, you welcome, embrace and enfold us.

Despite our deaf ears, you continue to speak to us.

Despite our blind eyes, you continue to show us the way.

Despite hearts hardened to the world's needs, you always love us.

Despite our uncertainty, you trust us with your message.

Despite our faltering and mumbling, you entrust us with your Word.

Despite the fact that we are unworthy, you see worth in us.

In our wanderings and wonderings, you stick with us.

All this and so much more, O God: you offer us your forgiveness.

We fail you, O God, yet loud and clear you speak words of acceptance and forgiveness to us: 'My child, your sins are forgiven.' Thank you, Lord. Amen.

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. thy kingdom come and thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**Acts 2: 1-21 taken from The New Testament - a New Translation by William Barclay. Copyright William Barclay 1968**

The disciples were all spending the day of Pentecost together. All of a sudden a sound came from the sky like a blast of violent wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. There appeared to them what looked like tongues of fire, which divided themselves up, and settled on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were Jews staying in Jerusalem, devout men who had come from every nation under the sun. When they heard the sound of this, they came in their crowds. They were bewildered, because each of them was hearing the disciples speak in his own language. They were astonished and amazed. 'Aren't all these men who are speaking Galileans?' they said. 'How is it then that each one of us hears them speaking in the language we have spoken since we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those whose homes are in Mesopotamia. Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the Cyrenian parts of Libya, visitors from Rome, Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabians, we are hearing them telling of God's great deeds in our own languages.' They were all astonished, and completely at a loss what to make of it. 'What is the meaning of this?' they said to each other. Others treated the whole affair as a jest. 'They are full of new wine,' they said. Peter stood up with the eleven and addressed them in a voice all could hear. 'Men of Judaea,' he said, 'and all you whose homes are in Jerusalem, understand this and listen to what I have to say. These men are not, as you suggest, drunk, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. So far from that, this is what the prophet Joel spoke of:

'In the last days, God says, I will pour out a share of my Spirit on all mankind. Your sons and daughters will become prophets, your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. In those

days I will pour out a share of my Spirit on my slave men and my slave girls, and they will become prophets. I will show wonders in the sky above, and visible demonstrations of my divine power on the earth below, blood and fire and a mist of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great day of the Lord comes in all its splendour. And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

**Comment – based on Pentecost - Year A [Sermon Outlines & all Age talks] by Susan Sayers.**

**Copyright 2015 Susan Sayers**

The coming of the Holy Spirit on God's people is directly the result of the victory won over sin and death on Good Friday, which became obvious with the Resurrection on Easter Day.

The growing understanding of all that meant and where it might lead, rather like a potential smouldering, has suddenly burst in to flames. The disciples had already experienced the risen Christ appearing among them and filling them with peace and happiness, reassurance and enlightenment. Now the new. Fulfilled law is searingly burnt into their hearts. Jesus comes not so much among them as right within them, in a breathtaking way which is allowing them to be truly at one with him, as he is one with the Father. From now on, the group of followers are collectively the Body of Christ, breathing the breath of his life, which is the life of God.

That power is immediately noticeable. Peter sees it as the fulfilment of Joel's prophecy.

Pentecost was only the beginning. It wasn't only to those first disciples that God came intimately and completely in the Holy Spirit. There is plenty of it left for us! In these times, too, God is prepared to make his dwelling with expectant believers of any tradition and any age, culture or personality. The truth is simple – anyone at all who prays expectantly and longingly for the real, living God to come upon them in power will receive the power that God so longs to give. It will come in the time and way which is best for each asking person. We need to return to a deep, passionate longing for God, more than anything or anyone else. And God will come and breathe his life into us all, and the effects will show.

**Prayer**

Lord Jesus, we pray for those shaken by bad news; may your living water bless and help them – for those shaken by the breakdown of a precious relationship; may your living water bless and support them – for those shaken by the death of someone they love; may your living water bless and comfort them – for those shaken by the onset of illness; may your living water bless and embrace them – for those shaken by all they see happening in the world; may your living water bless and strengthen them – for those shaken by loss of confidence; may your living water bless and encourage them – and for those shaken by the message of Pentecost; may your living water bless and anoint them – and us!  
Amen.

**Closing Prayer:** As we journey through the days ahead, inspire our thoughts, clothe our dreams, and colour our prayers, that we might dare to live confidently, compassionately and courageously as your Pentecost people. Amen.