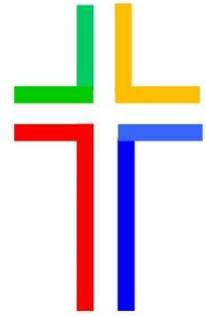


Week St Mary Methodist Church – Sunday 31 May Pentecost Sunday



The Day of Pentecost marks fifty days since Easter Day and brings the Easter season to an end. It is when Christians recall how God's Holy Spirit was given to the disciples after Jesus' ascension, empowering them to begin the work of making disciples of all nations.

PRAYER

Gracious God, we come before you in this moment ready to meet You and to hear what You have to say. On that first Pentecost, You sent Your Holy Spirit, and You promise that same gift to all who put their trust in You. Lord, we trust You; we love You; we want to

serve You. Send Your Holy Spirit, so that we may worship You with glad and thankful hearts. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The LORD'S PRAYER.

READING FOR TODAY Acts 2:1-13 (NIV)

Pentecost Sunday

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^[a] as the Spirit enabled them. ⁵Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language

being spoken. ⁷Utterly amazed, they asked: 'Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,^[b] ¹⁰Phrygia 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!' ¹²Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, 'What does this mean?'

¹³Some, however, made fun of them and said, 'They have had too much wine.'

REFLECTION

When we wake up in the morning, we sometimes turn on the TV or radio to see what the weather is doing. There are some mornings that we don't have to look at the TV to know that the wind is blowing because we can hear it! We can hear it whistling through the trees, down the chimney, and around the windows and doors. Another way we can know that the wind is there is that we can feel it blowing against our faces and blowing through our hair. We can also know the wind is there because we can see it moving things. We can see it moving the leaves on the trees and blowing bits of paper around.

Today is Pentecost Sunday, often called the birthday of the Church. The Bible tells us that the apostles were all gathered together when suddenly there was a sound like a mighty, rushing wind. Then, it says, they were filled with the Holy Spirit. And amazing things happened. People of many

nations could understand what each other were saying, creating a hubbub with the appearance of a drunken party and culminating with the first sermon by Peter.

We know that the Holy Spirit is with us because we can hear it. The Bible says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock, and if any man hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him." (Revelation 3:20) We can't see the Holy Spirit, but we know the Spirit is with us because he speaks to our hearts. We can feel the Holy Spirit's presence in our life. Psalm 23:4 says, "I will fear no evil for Thou art with me." The Bible also says that "if we love one another, God lives in us." We can also know that the Holy Spirit is with us as we see people moved to do God's will. The Bible says that the Spirit of God moves his people to speak and to do things for him. (2 Peter 1:21).

It's easy to be perplexed by the Holy Spirit. We like to think we're rational people, we understand everything, logic is everything. The Holy Spirit and the happenings of the first Pentecost all seem a bit weird, hard to explain, hard to understand. When we feel like that perhaps we should try to let go of our rational selves and find the space to just trust. The space to hear and feel what the Holy Spirit is saying to us. And we only have to lift our eyes to see wonderful examples of God's spirit moving his people through individual Christian lives and turning the three thousand people converted at Pentecost into 2.3 billion Christians across the world today.

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

Gracious Lord, we sometimes call today the church's birthday. We remember that Your church can be found all over the world, and so we pray for the church in faraway places.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.

We pray for other Christians in our area who are celebrating Pentecost in a variety of ways today. Show us ways of celebrating together, apart.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly Thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with Thy fire divine.

After being filled with Your Spirit, Peter preached to a great crowd. We pray for all those who are teachers or preachers in our church. Be with them in their speaking and their preparation.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life
Of Thine eternity.

Peter reminded the crowd that the promise of the Spirit was for all people. May every single person who loves you be filled with Your Spirit, and be eager to serve You Come, Lord Jesus. In Jesus' name. Amen

BLESSING

The disciples rushed out into the street, eager to share the good news of Jesus with those outside. Fill us with Your Spirit, and help us to be ready to share that same wonderful news. And the Blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit Be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN H&P 280 StF 370

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.

*"Bethlehem was God with us, Calvary was
God for us, and Pentecost is God in us."
Robert Baer*