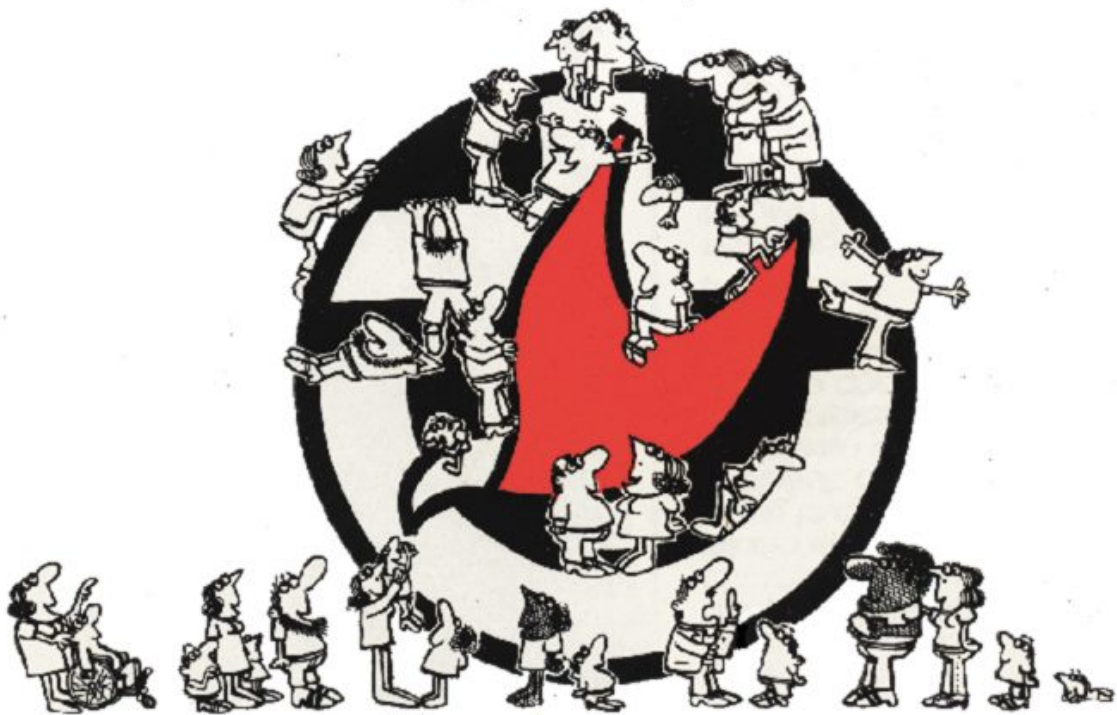




# Pentecost Sunday, 2020



**Preparation:**

*Do you have a musical instrument you can blow? Or a something to shake to make a noise? Or two sticks to bang together, or a spoon and a pot? Bring it to the worship space and be ready...*

**Call to worship**

Come, Holy Spirit,  
be as close to us as our breath,  
surprise us with your presence,  
bless us with understanding  
as we gather apart,  
as we long to live  
inspired by your outpouring love.

**Acknowledgment to Country**

We find our shelter on the lands and by the waters of the First Peoples and we acknowledge their custodianship of this ancient land of the Holy Spirit, and pay respects to their elders; past, present and emerging. We commit ourselves anew to working for reconciliation and justice in this land.

**Light your candle**



**Hymn TIS 398: Come down, O Love Divine**

Come down, O Love divine,  
seek now this soul of mine,  
and visit it with your own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear  
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

There let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;  
and let your glorious light  
shine ever on my sight

and clothe me round, the while my path  
illuminating.

Let holy charity  
my outer garment be,  
and lowliness become my inner clothing:  
true lowliness of heart,  
which takes the humbler part  
and for its own shortcomings weeps with  
loathing.

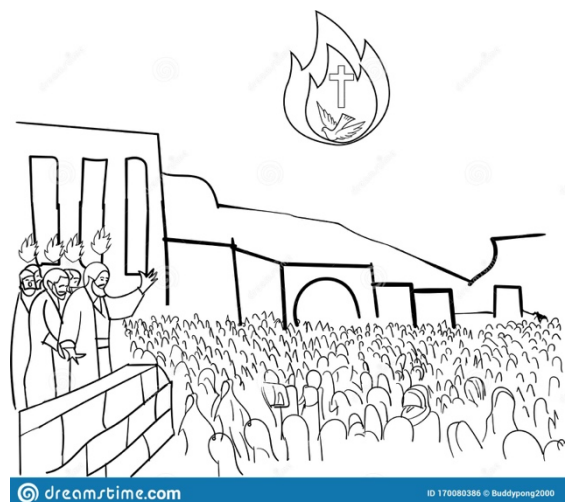
And so the yearning strong  
with which the soul will long  
shall far outpass the power of human  
telling;  
for none can guess its grace  
till we become the place

in which the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

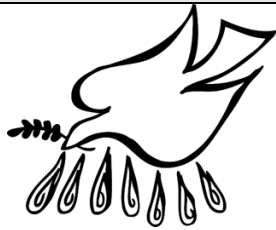
Used with Permission CCLI 241 739 Bianco da Siena  
d.1434 tr Richard Frederick Littledale. DOWN  
AMPNEY

**Read Acts 2: 1-21**

*Where the sound of the mighty wind comes  
in – make a noise, shake/bang/blow, and  
imagine the din, the sense of confusion or  
fear, the whirling, swirling working of the  
Holy Spirit.*



Prayers of thanksgiving & confession



TIS 711 – Come, O Holy Spirit, Come

Wa wa wa E-mi-mi-mo.  
E-mi o-lo-ye.  
Wa wa wa A-lag-ba-ra.  
A-lag-bra me-ta.  
Wa-o, Wa-o, Wa-o.  
E-mi-mi-mo.

Come, O Holy Spirit, come.  
O wise Spirit, come.  
Come, almighty Spirit, come.  
Almighty Trinity.  
Come, come, come.  
O Spirit, come.

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Giver of life, we give thanks for the people who have gathered with us over the years. Those who have taught us the faith in structured ways, and those who have taught us by humble example. Jesus, with us, we give thanks for the ways your words of truth have come alive for us in our hearts and lives. Holy Spirit, we give thanks for the blessings you have laid on our heads, for the inspiration to lead lives of creative faithfulness, for the courage to reach out to others and for the power to carry out your work.

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When we have refused to listen, forgive us... *(pause)*  
When we have failed to speak so that others might hear your words of life, forgive us... *(pause)*  
When we have quenched the flame of truth in preference for something more convenient, forgive us... *(pause)*

Assurance of forgiveness

Jesus came in order that we might have peace, the peace that passes all understanding. From John's gospel we hear these words of Jesus "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

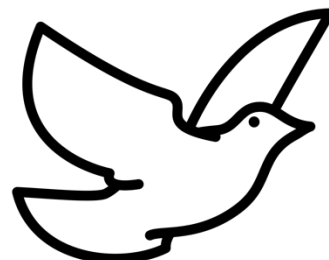
May that peace live within you and replace any darkness and doubt. May you breathe with calmness and confidence knowing this for sure: we are loved and we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God, Amen.**

Read Numbers 11:24-30

Read John 20:19-23

For these words of Faith  
And Jesus the Word: **Thanks be to God.**



**Reflection**

Never think that the world was without the Spirit before Pentecost! This Spirit who hovered over the waters at creation has been part of the Divine Relationship always. Here in the land we call Australia, the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit was active long before humans ever arrived here. The third point in the Preamble to the Uniting Church Constitution says this....

*“The First Peoples had already encountered the Creator God before the arrival of the colonisers; **the Spirit was already in the land** revealing God to the people through law, custom and ceremony. The same love and grace that was finally and fully revealed in Jesus Christ sustained the First Peoples and gave them particular insights into God’s ways.”* Moses is pictured as longing for his people to discern and be in relationship with the Spirit. Nature is shown in the Psalm to be in the rhythm of the Spirit’s dance.

So what meaning does Pentecost have? John van der Laar suggests that “Sometimes it feels like the celebration of Pentecost has become an exercise in missing the point. What was a radical, communal, inclusive and world-shifting event has become, in much contemporary practice, an individualist, exclusive, status-quo sustaining experience with little more to commend it than a sense of euphoria.” The “Church-birthing impact”, the transformational potential which disturbs and challenges has been largely domesticated into something much less likely to cause ‘amazement’ and empowerment.

This Spirit comes upon us as a community, to enable us to speak each other’s language, to be welcoming and serving no matter who we are. We work together to serve and empower those who most need compassion.

This Spirit is a ‘sending’ Spirit, accessible to us, just like the early church believers, to

take the love of God out into the world. This Spirit unites us as the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12 v 3b -13), celebrating our differences and our gifts and talents. The gift of the Spirit is not for holding to ourselves but for demonstrating the diversity of the Body in compassion and service. The Spirit is the energy in us for loving and including the marginalised and the different, the diseased and rejected, the poor and the vulnerable. This Spirit is not for the ‘raising up’ into a specially favoured group but for taking us out, to connect with those we need extra strength and inclination to relate with. As van der Laar suggests, Pentecost doesn’t take us out of the world into small rooms of worship but rather takes us back into the world to be the hands and feet of God, to live the prophetic message of God’ Kingdom with Jesus the Christ as our example.

This Spirit, present always, is showered upon us to bring us together, to invite us further into the Dance, and empower us to go, using the gifts and talents She bestows on us, and to share the love of Christ.

In these days of shut-in we find this to be a bit tougher. Let’s use this time as a prophetic time of grace, grace which blesses the environment through the pause in human affairs. A pause to bless this environment which is shown in the Psalm as being known and loved by God with all of creation in its belonging place. As we pause let us gather strength in the Spirit to listen, to discern our gifts and ways we can use them, both now and in the coming days of our community’s economic, and emotional and psychological, recovery.

Holy Dove, we ask you to “Come”, and you direct us to “go”. Let us draw on You to unite us in your grace and to direct our paths out into the word to love, and to serve others.

**Prayers of the People**



Holy Spirit  
 Come and fill the entire house  
 With understanding and mutual love.  
 Holy Spirit  
 Pour out upon us  
 A new hope, a new horizon.

For the leaders of Nation and State  
 We pray for stamina and rest.  
 We pray that they may be encouraged  
 In their work to continue to  
 Work for the welfare of all.

**Holy Spirit: Come to our Leaders**

For our medical workers and teams  
 For all those working in care facilities  
 We pray for the sustaining of their morale  
 And wisdom in all their actions.

**Holy Spirit: Come to our Medical teams.**

For our Police and Ambulance services  
 All the volunteers of SES  
 And all the Fire Service workers  
 We pray for healing and protection  
 From the trauma they encounter

**Holy Spirit: Come to our Service Workers**

We pray for families in crisis  
 For families in breakdown and pain  
 And adults & children in fear  
 For all threatened by violence  
 And especially for those who try to help

**Holy Spirit: navigate a path to safety.**

We pause now, to call into prayer

All those who are grieving  
 For those who are with those dying  
 And those who cannot be with them  
 Come Holy Spirit  
 Breathe life in us again  
 Breathe comfort into us again  
 Breathe companionship with us afresh  
**Holy Spirit: Come bring life.**  
*Hear these prayers of our hearts as we  
 share in 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.  
 Save us from the time of trial  
 and deliver us from evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
 are yours  
 now and for ever. Amen.**

**Offering**

*What we have, we share:  
 In giving we receive  
 May the gift we give, bring life to all.*

**TIS 411 Filled with the Spirit's Power**

Filled with the Spirit's power, with one  
 accord  
 the infant church confessed its risen Lord:  
 O Holy Spirit, in the church today  
 no less your power of fellowship display.

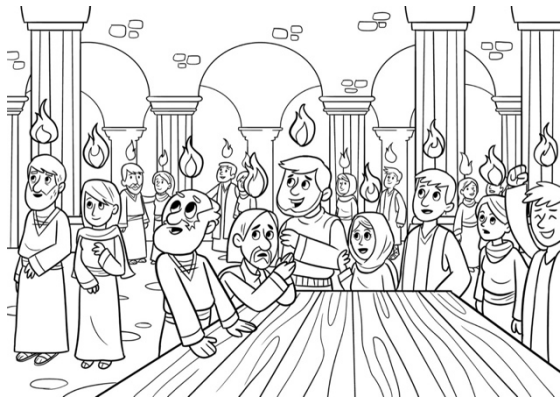
Now with the mind of Christ set us on fire,  
 that unity may be our great desire:  
 give joy and peace; give faith to hear your  
 call,  
 and readiness in each to work for all.

Widen our love, good Spirit, to embrace  
 in your strong care all those of every race:  
 like wind and fire with life among us move  
 till we are known as Christ's, and Christians  
 prove.

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**Blessing**

Come with us, Holy Spirit,  
 be as close to us as our breath,  
 surprise us with your presence,  
 bless us with understanding  
 as we continue in this day,  
 apart, yet united as one,  
 as we long to live  
 inspired by your outpouring love.  
 May it be so, **Amen.**



**A Song to reflect with:**

She comes sailing on the wind,  
 her wings flashing in the sun;  
 on a journey just begun,  
 she flies on.

And in the passage of her flight,  
 her song rings out through the night,  
 full of laughter, full of light,  
 she flies on.

Silent waters rocking on the morning of our  
 birth,  
 like an empty cradle waiting to be filled.  
 And from the heart of God the Spirit moved  
 up on the earth,  
 like a mother breathing life into her child.

Many were the dreamers whose eyes were  
 given sight  
 when the Spirit filled their dreams with life  
 and form.

Deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts  
 found new delight,

and then down the ages still she flew on.  
*(Refrain)*

To a gentle girl in Galilee, a gentle breeze  
 she came,  
 a whisper softly calling in the dark,  
 the promise of a child of peace whose reign  
 would never end,  
 Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart.  
*(Refrain)*

Flying to the river, she waited circling high  
 above the child now grown so full of grace.  
 As he rose up from the water, she swept  
 down from the sky,  
 and she carried him away in her embrace.  
*(Refrain)*

Long after the deep darkness that fell upon  
 the world,  
 after dawn returned in flame of rising sun,  
 the Spirit touched the earth again, again  
 her wings unfurled,  
 bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on.  
*(Refrain)*

*Song: Gordon Light, Alberta Canada, 1987  
 b. 1944*

