

*The Benefice of St Mary the Virgin,
Higham Ferrers with St John the Baptist,
Chelveston-cum-Caldecott*



The Feast of Pentecost

Pentecost

Pentecost (from the Greek *pentekoste* meaning 'fiftieth') has its roots in the Jewish Feast of Weeks, which was completed on the fiftieth day after Passover. On the fiftieth day of Easter, God sends the Holy Spirit to empower the Church to perform the mission which the risen Christ has entrusted to it. Pentecost celebrates both the Holy Spirit and the Christian Church—often called 'the Birthday of the Church.' It is the crown and completion of the Easter season and one of the three 'great times' of the Christian Year: Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.

After the Easter Vigil, the time of Pentecost is traditionally a time for baptism in early Christian centuries, and for confirmation, which completes the baptism by water and the Spirit. It is a time when we can all remember our baptism and confirmation and commit ourselves afresh in the power of the Spirit to God's service.

Jesus, our risen Lord is no longer present to the Church in his physical form, so like those first disciples, who were so filled with the power of the Holy Spirit that they seemed to be on fire with love, we too, as the Church here and now, are to be the new body of Christ, filled with his life through the gift of the Spirit.

It is the gift of his Spirit that we celebrate today.



*Welcome as we continue to meet in this new way
and today, celebrate the Feast of Pentecost.*

***In all that is strange, it is also wonderful in that we are now sharing
in leading our worship with friends from all three of our usual
services, and of course many of us already know each other from
times when we join together for special services. It is a great gift
that we are able to worship together as one congregation and hear
each other's voices as we share in familiar and new ways of singing,
praying, and hearing God's voice among us. Today – appropriately
for Pentecost Sunday, many voices, many languages, join together
across the world in praise of God!***

Today's service was recorded at home by members of The Ministry Team and their families, including Chris Dalliston, Dean of Peterborough.

Special thanks to Jess Bermudez, Cynthia Matthias, John Eldred, Richard Oberman, Joy Yorke, Paul Needle, Bella Dalliston, Ruth Blakebrough Miller and Anastasia Hale for assisting with the many languages involved in today's service;
to Katie, Alex & Edward Green for leading the Affirmation of Faith;
Jess Bermudez, Josh Kable, Jo Green and Chris Newell for leading the prayers, and Keith & Jo Green for the Alleluia.

Today also sees the premiere performance of the St Mary's 'Virtual Choir' – 11 members recorded their voices individually, assisted by Keith Green, and edited together by Georgie Dalliston. Many thanks to all involved.

For the service today, you might like to have a small bowl of oil for the prayers for Personal Renewal, a candle to light at the end, and streamers to wave and instruments to use during the hymns!



Pentecost also draws to a close the 10 days of prayer for *Thy Kingdom Come*, you can continue to follow TKC online at <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

Please join in with the prayers and hymns.

The Gathering

We sing together:

Hymn:

Come, Holy Spirit, come!
Inflame our souls with love,
transforming every heart and home
with wisdom from above.
O let us not despise
the humble path Christ trod,
but choose to shame the worldly-wise,
the foolishness of God.



Come with the gift to heal
the wounds of guilt and fear,
and to oppression's face reveal
the kingdom drawing near.
Where chaos longs to reign,
descend, O holy Dove,
and free us all to work again
the miracles of love.

Give us the tongues to speak,
in every time and place,
to rich and poor, to strong and weak,
the word of love and grace.
Enable us to hear
the words that others bring,
interpreting with open ear
the special song they sing.

**Come, Holy Spirit, dance
within our hearts today,
our earthbound spirits to entrance,
our mortal fears allay.
And teach us to desire,
all other things above,
that self-consuming holy fire,
the perfect gift of love!**

Words: Michael Forster (b.1946)

Music: DIADEMATA George Elvey (1816-1893)

Michelle greets us:

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you all.

And also with you.

Opening Acclamation

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.



Introduction

Jesus Christ, whom we worship, is our crucified, risen and ascended Lord and we have walked with him through his journey of love. In these difficult days for all the world, we have found new meaning in the story of his suffering and death on a cross, and even in our separation, we have been joined together in rejoicing at his bursting free from the bonds of death.

We have heard once again how his disciples met him in their times of need, and we have felt his presence with us in all our loneliness and anxiety.

We celebrated his return to the throne before which every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that this Jesus is Lord. And now, with the followers of his own time, we await the coming of the promised Holy Spirit, his gift to his people, through whom we make Christ known to the world.

Responsory – led by Brenda

God says:
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Christ says:
I will ask the Father
and he will give you another Counsellor
to be with you for ever.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit,
gentle as a dove,
burning as fire,
powerful as the wind.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Silence is kept.

*Come Holy Ghost
based on the Latin antiphon 'Veni Creator Spiritus'
(8th or 9th century)*



Reading

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles *read by Paul*

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: 'People 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 people,
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."

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.



Hymn:

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

**O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.**

**Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing:
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er 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 he become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.**

Words: Bianco da Siena (d.1434)

Music: DOWN AMPNEY Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Prayer for Personal Renewal – led by Michelle

We take a small bowl of olive oil, not the sacrament of the Oil of Chrism, but a reminder of that holy oil, through which we are anointed as God's own people, chosen and precious in his sight.



Pentecost is a time to renew ourselves in our commitment of faith and service and to pray for the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Be with us, Spirit of God;
nothing can separate us from your love.
Breathe on us, breath of God;
fill us with your saving power.
Speak in us, wisdom of God;
bring strength, healing, and peace.

Blessed are you, sovereign God and eternal Father.
Daily your Spirit renews the face of the earth,
bringing strength out of weakness,
hope out of despair and life out of death.
By the power of your Spirit,
may your blessing rest upon us
anointed as your holy people.

May we know ourselves
accepted and adopted as your children.
Form us in the likeness of Christ,
that we may be witnesses of your astonishing love,
and fill us afresh with life in all its fullness.
Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

Through the Oil of Chrism, blessed by our Bishop on Maundy Thursday, we receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit. This year, unable to use Chrism, we take ordinary oil, as a reminder of our being already anointed through our baptism and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are invited to make the sign of the cross on our own forehead, or on the foreheads of those others with whom we share this worship today, as we are signed by them. In all times of need, and in these particular days - Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us:

Using the oil, we can make the sign of the cross as a sign of the Holy Spirit who anoints us and fills us with the power of God's love.



Music: *Spirit of the Living God,*
sung by members of the Choir of St Mary's

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
melt me, mould me, fill me, use me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Words & Music: Daniel Iverson (1890-1977)

Affirmation of Faith - led by Katie, Alex & Edward Green

Let us declare our faith in the living God:

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

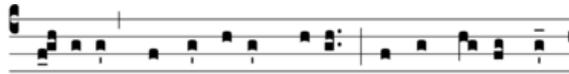
**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

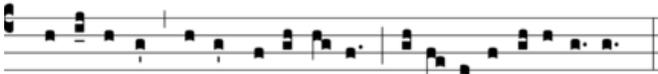
**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

Gloria in Excelsis

Gloria in excelsis deo,
from 'Gloria in D'
by Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Ant. 

G Lóri-a * in excélsis De-o, et in terra pax



homí-ni-bus bonæ vo-luntá-tis, alle-lú-ia, alle-lú-ia.

Collect – *Linda*

Let us pray that the Spirit will work through our lives
to bring Christ to the world.

Silence is kept.

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Alleluia – *led by Keith & Jo – all join in singing:*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Strong is your love. Mighty your word.

Speak to us now, open our hearts, Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Spirit of God, come fill our hearts.

Message of truth, here among us, Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

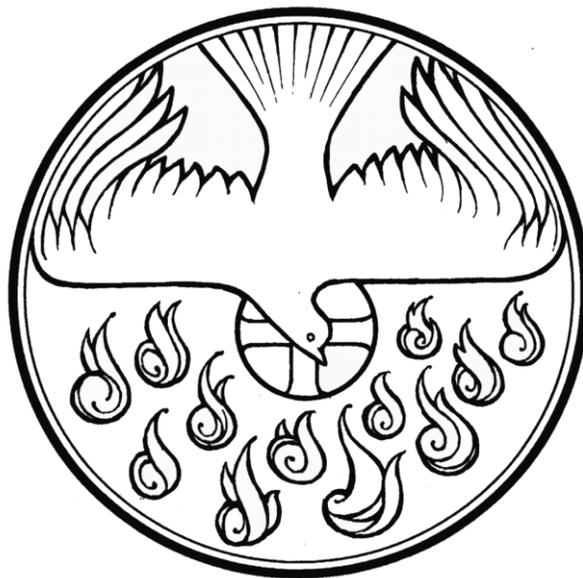
Gospel – John 20: 19-22 – *read by Lesley*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

It was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily - Michelle



Prayers of Intercession

led by Chris Newell, Jo Green, Jess Bermudez & Josh Kable

We sing verses of the hymn between the prayers as we pray through words and music and in the power of the Spirit.

We pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit
to renew us and refresh us,
and to enliven us with the presence of the Lord.

**Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here;
come bow before him now
with reverence and fear:
in him no sin is found -
we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here.**

Breathe on your creation, O God, your holy and life-giving Spirit.
Spread abroad from sea to sea and shore to shore your peace.
All that you have made sings your praises.

Breathe on your Church, O God, your holy and life-giving Spirit.
Refresh and revive us with your vibrancy.
Pour out the gifts of the Spirit,
that your glory may be proclaimed throughout the world.

**Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned:
how awesome is the sight -
our radiant King of light!
Be still for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.**



Breathe on all people, O God, your holy and life-giving Spirit.
Unite into one family and fellowship the fragmented strands of
humanity, bring all people to rejoice in the wonders of your love.

Breathe on all who are frail and weary, O God, your holy and life-
giving Spirit, and breathe on all who have died, that they may be
restored by your life-giving power to fullness of life in your
presence.

**Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place:
he comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace.
No work too hard for him,
in faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.**

Words & Music: David Evans (b. 1957)



The Lord's Prayer – led by Paul

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,
let us pray as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
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.**

The Peace – led by Lesley

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace.
If we live in the Spirit, let us walk in the Spirit.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Blessing of Light – led by Michelle & Chris

The Easter Candle stands as a sign of the resurrection and the faith and hope by which we live. Today, its flame burns as a reminder of the power of the Holy Spirit poured out upon us at Pentecost.



Blessed are you, sovereign God,
overflowing in love.
With Pentecost dawns the age of the Spirit.
Now the flame of heaven rests on every believer.
Strong and weak, women and men
tell out your word; the young receive visions,
the old receive dreams.
With the new wine of the Spirit
they proclaim your reign of love.
Amid the birth pangs of the new creation
the way of light is made known.
Source of freedom, giver of life,
blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

We all light a new candle to remind us of this flame of heaven, and of the way of light that we are to live, and to share as we shine as the light of Christ in the world.

Commission led by Brenda

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, will you dare to walk into God's future, trusting him to be your guide?

By the Spirit's power, we will.

Will you dare to embrace each other and grow together in love?

We will.

Will you dare to share your riches in common and minister to each other in need?

We will.

Will you dare to pray for each other until your hearts beat with the longings of God?

We will.

Will you dare to carry the light of Christ into the world's dark places?

We will.

Hymn

**O God beyond all praising,
we worship you today
and sing the love amazing
that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder
at every gift you send,
at blessings without number
and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you
and wait upon your word,
we honour and adore you,
our great and mighty Lord.**



Then hear, O gracious Saviour,
accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favour
may serve you as our king;
and whether our tomorrows
be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows
and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty
and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty
our sacrifice of praise.

Words: Michael Perry (1942-1996)

Music: THAXTED from The Planets by Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Conclusion - led by Paul

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Today we have remembered the coming of God's power on the disciples and we invite that same Spirit to drive us out into the wild places of the world.

Final Prayer - Linda

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter
by sending us your Holy Spirit
and opening to every race and nation
the way of life eternal:
open our lips by your Spirit,
that every tongue may tell of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing - Michelle

May the Spirit,
who hovered over the waters
when the world was created, breathe into you life.
Amen.

May the Spirit,
who overshadowed the Virgin
when the eternal Son came among us,
make you joyful in the service of the Lord.
Amen.

May the Spirit,
who set the Church on fire
upon the Day of Pentecost,
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.
Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Filled with the Spirit's power,
live in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.



