



Birstall Methodist Church

A Service for Pentecost Sunday: May 23rd, 2021



[This service has been prepared for use at home.](#)

Call to Worship StF 759

Come O Lord, give us your Spirit
Come O Lord into our lives.
Come O Lord, open our hearts to receive your word.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Come, Spirit, come.

HYMN StF 152

1. This is the day,
this is the day that the Lord has made,
that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day that the Lord has made.
2. This is the day,
this is the day when he rose again,
when he rose again;
we will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day when he rose again;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day when he rose again.
3. This is the day,
this is the day when the Spirit came,
when the Spirit came;
we will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day when the Spirit came;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day when the Spirit came.

PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION -

As we worship today, we think of those disciples gathered together on the 1st Pentecost.
In the stillness of our surroundings, let us praise God for his promises.

We praise you as the Creator,
for the promise made through the symbol of the rainbow,
that you would never again destroy the world - and for the security this gives.

We praise you as the Son,
remembering the day you rose again
and the promise you made to be with us to the end of time - and the hope this brings.

We praise you as the Spirit,
for your promise realised at Pentecost
when new powers were given to all who would receive them - and the challenges they create.

Lord we want to praise you with every part of our lives,
but we recognise that we also need to ask for your forgiveness:
for turning our backs on truth and justice
for facing new tasks or challenges unwillingly
for wanting to do what pleases us rather than listening to one another
for saying and doing things which hurt other people.

Lord, forgive us.

Hear the words of assurance - your sins are forgiven –

***Forgiven and renewed,
we open ourselves to new life.
Amen***

CARIBBEAN LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who is in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your Kingdom come, Your will be done,
Hallowed be your name.

On earth as it is in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Give us this day our daily bread,
Hallowed be your name.

Forgive us all our trespasses,
Hallowed be your name,
As we forgive those who trespass against us,
Hallowed be your name.

And lead us not into temptation,
Hallowed be your name,
But deliver us from all that is evil,
Hallowed be your name.

For yours is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory,
Hallowed be your name,
For ever and for ever and ever,
Hallowed be your name.

Amen, Amen, it shall be so,
Hallowed be your name,
Amen, Amen, it shall be so,
Hallowed be your name.
Amen.

Reading Acts 2:12-21

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: JOHN WESLEY

Today we recall the ministry of John Wesley, seen here speaking to a young boy from the Kingswood area of Bristol.

The bronze was created to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of Kingswood School which was founded by John Wesley.

He set up the school for the sons of the miners of Kingswood who were some of the roughest and most deprived people of the time. He gave the boys an education which transformed their lives.

A commitment to education was just one of the many aspects of Wesley's ministry. His 'Pentecost' experience of the warmed heart led to a ministry that changed the lives of thousands of people and also to a worldwide movement numbered in millions. His 'breakout ministry' broke down barriers, opened up new opportunities for countless numbers and challenged the social patterns of the day.

Tomorrow, Monday 24th May, is Wesley Day. I invite you to take a moment during the day to reflect on Wesley's ministry - what we might discover from it in terms of ministry for today and also give thanks for his life.



Hymn STF 691

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| <p>1. What shall our greeting be:
 Sign of our unity?
 Jesus is Lord!
 May we no more defend
 Barriers he died to end:
 Give me your hand, my friend:
 One Church, One Lord!</p> | <p>2. What is our mission here?
 He makes his purpose clear:
 One world, one Lord!
 Spirit of truth descend,
 All our confusions end:
 Give me your hand, my friend:
 Jesus is Lord!</p> |
| <p>3. He comes to save us now:
 To serve him is to know
 Life's true reward.
 May he our lives amend,
 All our betrayals end:
 Give me your hand, my friend:
 Jesus is Lord!</p> | |

words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

Reading John 15: 26-27

Jesus said, "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

Reflection: Pentecost

Over recent months we have all experienced that sense or concern of 'what will happen next?' - an experience that resonates with that of the disciples between the Easter joy and the feeling of being left behind. Jesus is no longer physically present following the Ascension. What will be the next chapter?

Some of the disciples would be pondering His words and promises and the hopes that they raised for the future - others were hiding away because their expectations had been shattered. Then comes Pentecost and the real sense of the presence of Jesus through the gifts of the Spirit. In a word it was 'Breakout'.

Breakout - because barriers were broken – the language barrier was breached and the crowd was able to understand the message whatever their culture or native tongue. A common understanding was established where the power of the Gospel – the work of the Advocate – was seen at work.

Breakout - because the people were given the confidence to tell the story of the work and life of Christ. The transforming experience of changed lives – the timidity of the disciples changed into the beginning of the Church which over time changed the world. This work continues into the 21st Century as the Pentecost effect works its way through the current generation. This is a world that is still being born as new discoveries are made and prejudices are being overturned.

Breakout - because the Spirit, the Advocate, challenged the world to look again at itself. Those early followers took up the challenge of applying the Gospel to the issues of life – relations across the nations; the sharing of gifts and their distribution – a ministry that continues now. We cannot change the past and we live with sadness over historical events but we can work to ensure a just and peaceful future for all.

Our biblical passages tell of the beginnings of Pentecost – our participation as today's People of God is to continue the story as we use the gifts given to us by God. Let us reflect on the gifts we have received that enable us to be part of the 'Breakout' of the Gospel.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*Lord we open our lives afresh today, to the baptism of your Holy Spirit;
We are open to be licked by the gentle flames of healing;
We are open to be washed by rains from a new horizon;
We are open to be inspired by the rainbow of Pentecost blessings;
Unite us to be reborn in the radiance of your grace.
Amen.*

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we come to our prayers of intercession we hold in our minds images from this week's news - as well as those situations that seem to be forgotten.

We pray for those who want to break away from unjust leaders - at local, national or international level - refugees, asylum seekers, those who live in fear of their lives

The Lord hears us

Thanks be to God

We pray for those wanting to break out from poverty caused by natural disaster, injustice, greed

The Lord hears us

Thanks be to God

We pray for those wanting to break through to something new - in their relationships, in education, in work and in health

The Lord hears us

Thanks be to God

In the stillness we bring before God those who have asked for our prayers
– those who are anxious, lonely, grieving
– those who are rejoicing, excited, expectant

The Lord hears our prayer

Thanks be to God

We give thanks for all those who help us to break away, break out or break through -
and pray that both they and we may know the power of your Spirit -
challenging, motivating and encouraging us.

In the name of Christ.

Amen

Hymn StF 388

1. Let every Christian pray,
This day, and every day,
Come, Holy Spirit, come!
Was not the Church we love
Commissioned from above?
Come, Holy Spirit, come!

2. The Spirit brought to birth
The Church of Christ on earth
To seek and save the lost:
God never has withdrawn,
Since that tremendous dawn,
The gifts of Pentecost.

3. Age after age, he strove
To teach her how to love:
Come, Holy Spirit, come!
Age after age, anew,
She proved the gospel true:
Come, Holy Spirit, come!

4. Only the Spirit's power
Can fit us for this hour:
Come, Holy Spirit Come!
Instruct, inspire, unite;
And make us see the light:
Come Holy Spirit, come!

words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

THE BLESSING

This is the day the Lord has made
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Go in Peace and Serve the Lord
We will seek Peace and live in his way.
Amen