



WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

I as Chaplain welcome you to the twelfth St George's Barcelona and Andorra Virtual Church Service where we celebrate Pentecost. The Day of Pentecost marks fifty days since Easter Day and marks the end of the Easter season. It is a major date in the Church's year when Christians remember **how the Holy Spirit was given** to the disciples after Jesus's ascension into heaven.

During this service, after each hymn being announced, we will allow time for you to change the YouTube link if you choose. Also, after each passage of our Bible reading is announced we will allow time for you to look it up in your Bibles, or on your Bible Apps or Bible Gateway and follow the reading. We use the New International Version (UK).

So let us quieten our hearts as we pray the St George's Prayer:

Our Father, as individuals and as a community may we come to know and love you more and more, may we feel your love and care through each other, may we be witnesses to Christ wherever we are, and by the power of your Holy Spirit, may we be attentive to you, to our neighbour and to your world.

A SONG OF PRAISE TO CALL US TO WORSHIP For I'm building a people of power ... of praise
<https://youtu.be/fAVdz4a7s6s>

TODAY'S PSALM is PSALM 104.26-35

*if you are following this service on paper why not read this antiphonally as we do in church?
That means taking turns ... young and old, or male and female, or one and the rest?*

²⁶ There the ships go to and fro, and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there. ²⁷ **All creatures look to you** to give them their food at the proper time. ²⁸ When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are **satisfied with good things**. ²⁹ When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. ³⁰ **When you send your Spirit**, they are created, and **you renew** the face of the ground. ³¹ **May the glory of the LORD endure for ever; may the LORD rejoice in his works** – ³² he who looks at the earth, and it trembles, who touches the mountains, and they smoke. ³³ **I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.** ³⁴ **May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the LORD.** ³⁵ But may sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked be no more. **Praise the LORD, my soul. Praise the LORD.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen

THE GREETING

We have come together in the name of Christ
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.
Amen.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Faithful one, whose word is life: come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SONG OF CELEBRATION - *Particularly for the Sunday School Alleluia Praise ye the Lord*
<https://youtu.be/8pbNBKK2iA0>

CONFESSION

✠ What God has prepared for those who love him,
he has revealed to us **through the Spirit;**
for the Spirit searches everything.

Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord,
who has prepared good things for those who love him.

1 Corinthians 2.9,10

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION *is pronounced and all respond:*

✠ May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw *us* to himself,
and cleanse *us* from all *our* sins
that *we* may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

In response we join in the words GLORIA:

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

A SONG OF RESPONSE

Be still for the presence of the Lord, the holy one is here <https://youtu.be/ZugvUQ4m90U>

THE COLLECT Let us pray together:

✠ **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**

THE WORD OF GOD

✘ THE FIRST READING ✘ ACTS 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were **all together in one place**. ² **Suddenly** a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and **filled** the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw **what seemed to be** tongues of fire that **separated and came to rest on each of them**. ⁴ **All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^[a] as the Spirit enabled them**. ⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem **God-fearing Jews** from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard **their own language** being spoken. ⁷ **Utterly amazed**, they asked: 'Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,^[b] ¹⁰ Phrygia 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!' ¹² **Amazed and perplexed**, they asked one another, 'What does this mean?' ¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, 'They have had too much wine.'

Peter addresses the crowd

¹⁴ **Then Peter stood up with the Eleven**, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, **let me explain this to you; listen carefully** to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken **by the prophet Joel**: ¹⁷ "'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even on my servants, **both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit** in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹ **I will show wonders** in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood **before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord**. ²¹ **And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**"^[c]

This is the Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God

✘ THE SECOND READING ✘ 1 CORINTHIANS 12.3-13

³ **Therefore I want you to know** that no one who is **speaking by the Spirit of God** says, 'Jesus be cursed,' and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' **except by the Holy Spirit**. ⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, **but the same Spirit** distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, **but the same Lord**. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone **it is the same God** at work. ⁷ **Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good**. ⁸ To one there is given **through the Spirit** a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge **by means of the same Spirit**, ⁹ to another faith **by the same Spirit**, to another gifts of healing **by that one Spirit**, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,^[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.^[b] ¹¹ All these are the work **of one and the same Spirit**, and he distributes them to each one, **just as he determines**. ¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, **so it is with Christ**. ¹³ **For we were all baptised by^[c] one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink**.

This is the Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God

GOSPEL HYMN to prepare us to listen to the story of our Lord we will sing a prayer of openness to God **Spirit of the living God ... fall afresh on me**

<https://youtu.be/O6h3J5FYn-l>

Alleluia, alleluia. **Come, Holy Spirit**, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love. *All Alleluia.*

✠ **THE GOSPEL JOHN 20:19-23**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord according to St John, Glory to you O Lord

¹⁹ On the evening **of that first day of the week**, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for **fear** of the Jewish leaders, **Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!'** ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were **overjoyed** when they saw the Lord. ²¹ **Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.'** ²² **And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'** ²³ **If you forgive** anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; **if you do not forgive them**, they are not forgiven.'

This is the Gospel of our Lord, Praise you O Christ

SERMON PENTECOST SUNDAY

*May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight,
O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.*

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Pentecost Sunday – this is the day we celebrate the birthday of the church, we celebrate something new and we celebrate the daily reality of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. This is a red colour day – the day of the colour of fire – a picture of heat and passion and zeal.

We could talk about the significance of fire, wind, noise, language in Scripture. In my past years here at St George's I have spoken mainly about the story of the day – today I want to look at special words and phrases to give us a feel of Pentecost. But before that, a repetition, as a way of reminder, of two things from previous sermons:

✦ **Fire:** This is the kind of fire that warms, energizes, excites, powers. Religion is often thought to be feeble, insipid, weak, characterless, dull, flat and flavourless. Here was something that was very powerful indeed. Here is religion with power!

✦ **God speaks to me:** These disciples are speaking in foreign languages. The people probably were all Greek speakers - why then did it happen? I believe God was saying something about his Gospel – in our Communion Service today we are going to have the Lord's Prayer in languages – and we will give time for you to say it in your own language if that is not English. This was the Tower of Babel reversed: Everybody would know that this new message was not just for the Jews, it was for everybody. Yes, God speaks my language! It is why Christians have translations of the Bible into hundreds of languages. We have a universal faith. ... Here is John 3:16 in a number of languages read at the same time – watch out to see if you recognise yours! *For God so loved the world that he gave his only beloved Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

And so to today – a day to reflect on the Holy Spirit and on what he will do in us as a body and in each one of us - whatever we need and whatever the he desires of us. **There has been debate over the centuries over which gender we use for the Spirit.** The Hebrew is both male and female, and the

Greek is neutral. Our language is too limited but worth following up if you are interested. Today however, the person of the Spirit is what counts and it is that that we celebrate.

As I said earlier – today I want to look at special words and phrases from our readings to give us a feel of Pentecost. So we start with the Psalm:

TODAY'S PSALM is PSALM 104.26-35

There are two things I want us to note here:

1. V26 The word **frolic**: **This word is also used in Malachi 4:2: *But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves.* **What does it mean to frolic?** The root of the word means to skip about and is translated in different places as bounding (1), dance (1), leap (1), leaping (1), skip (2), skip about (1), skipped (1). ... as well as frolic. All of them give a picture of energy, of fun, of joy and of childlike exuberance. This is what led to the people thinking the Apostle's were drunk. I have a book with the title: '**The Sober Intoxication of the Spirit**', written by Raniero Cantalamessa – one of my favourite titles ever .. and author too.**

2. **Secondly**, I want to put three phrases together: **V28 satisfied with good things V30 When you send your Spirit, ... you renew V34 May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the LORD.** Together they give the sense of God centred well-being – as we move on in our present Cloistering experience, as the walls of the cloister begin to come down, let us keep what has been good. Our true well-being is not in freedom to wander, or in seeing other people (although both of these are good and important), it is in a God centeredness that brings satisfaction, renewal and rejoicing. **This God centeredness** is found in the constant experience of the Holy Spirit.

✘ THE FIRST READING ✘ ACTS 2:1-21

There are also two things I want us to note from our readings in Acts:

1. **It is about the community and the individual.** **V1 all together v3 on each of them v4 All of them were filled v18 both men and women v21 everyone who calls on the name.** God's concern is always for both ... the individual and the community. There is no either/or on this ... all the way through the Bible it is both ... and. The word monastic means to be alone together ... *monos* is alone. This is true all of us, our togetherness comes out of the unified direction of our aloneness. It is to this that the Spirit comes.

2. **God wants to make an impact.** There is sound and tongues of fire: **V2 Suddenly a sound filled v3 what seemed to be tongues of fire v4 filled with the Holy Spirit ... as the Spirit enabled them. And the response is V7 Utterly amazed v12 Amazed and perplexed v14 let me explain this to you; listen carefully v18 I will pour out my Spirit ¹⁹ I will show wonders** – so Peter tells them about his Lord. He is no longer afraid, he has courage – but also wisdom ... by the power of the Spirit he knows what to say and when. The Spirit is self-effacing – he always leads us to speak more and more about our Lord Jesus.

✘ THE SECOND READING ✘ 1 CORINTHIANS 12.3-13

I just want to point out **one thing** in our third reading – this reading is about the Spirit who allows us to be different, but yet inextricably joins us together. Listen to these phrases: **V3 by the Spirit of God Holy Spirit v5 same Spirit same Lord v6 the same God . ⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good ⁸ through the Spirit ... by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ ... by the same Spirit, ... by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ ... of one and the same Spirit, ..., just as he determines. ¹³ by one Spirit so as to form one body – given the one Spirit** And then Paul focuses, as he always does, on Christ – he says, ¹² **so it is with Christ.**

Jenny Shaw messaged in one of our WhatsApp groups asking people if they had a sense of what God may be saying to us in these days ... and the word she felt she had was 'wait'. **Deborah my wife** had also been praying and she had a sense that God might be saying, 'Don't forget about community - remember our new St George's prayer that we say at the beginning of the our services.' **Wait and don't forget community** are special lessons which I believe God is saying to us as we move forward. It may be a long time before we can be as relaxed as we once were ... but that does not prevent us being joyful in Christ as both Peter and Paul knew in prisons.

✠ **THE GOSPEL JOHN 20:19-23**

In our Gospel reading, Christ comes into the upper room, breathed his Spirit ... their fear turned to joy and he proclaimed peace twice ... and then gave them spiritual authority to declare the forgiveness of sins.

Their attitude and situation was transformed by the Spirit of Christ. We live in Pentecost days. God is as able as he ever was. I get excited when lives are transformed ... but God does so much more – the angels in heaven sing at one sinner repenting.

As I look to the future of our church in the next few months, I doubt it is going to be the same for a long time ... and after what we have been through together, it will never be quite the same. But I firmly believe that if we wait as a community with a rhythm of prayer and life, with God, we will see new things happen.

When we get to the New Normality, life is unlikely to be as we remembered it. We are going to have to learn to drive with caution. When I learned to drive in Scotland I was told by my instructor that the essence of good driving is that you treat all other drivers and pedestrians with respect. This is how we have to move forward. An attitude of respect and love that powerfully marks us as the people of God. I don't know how all this is going to work out – but I am excited at the prospect. The hymn: *I Do Not Know What Lies Ahead, The Way I Cannot See; Yet One Stands Near To Be My Guide, He'll Show The Way To Me.*

So, a prayer: Spirit of God, come fill your Church.

Holy Spirit come as a flame. Set us on fire with love for you.

Holy Spirit come as a wind. Sweep through us with your unseen power.

Holy Spirit come as water. Wash away all that spoils our lives.

Holy Spirit come as oil. Anoint us to work in your service.

Holy Spirit come as breath. Make us alive with enthusiasm for you.

Holy Spirit come as a dove. Bring us together in peace with one another.

Spirit of God, fill your Church.

Come, Holy Spirit Veni, Sancte Spiritus: an ancient prayer of the Church:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit. Let each of us in our hearts say, Come Holy Spirit, take me, anoint me, fill me, come Holy Spirit, I am open. Come. Amen

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

✠ In response to God's Word we join together in the **THE APOSTLES' CREED** –

This is what we believe.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace

- Normally the gifts of the people are gathered at this time. DonorBox is now live on our church website and you can give your tithes and offerings by Credit Card. If you are regular envelope giver, DonorBox records your name and amount and will be added to your envelope information. St George's needs your ongoing support as our costs continue even when we cannot have services here.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Breathe on me breath of God fill me with life anew https://youtu.be/6ph-t8P2r_I

OFFERTORY PRAYER

✠ Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER for ASCENSION SUNDAY

The Lord is here **His presence is with us**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and everlasting God,
through Jesus Christ, your only Son our Lord.
This day we give you thanks
because in fulfilment of your promise
you pour out your Spirit upon us,
filling us with your gifts, leading us into all truth,
and uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith.
Your Spirit gives us grace to call you Father,
to proclaim your gospel to all nations
and to serve you as a royal priesthood.
Therefore we join our voices with angels and archangels,
and with all those in whom the Spirit dwells,
to proclaim the glory of your name,
for ever praising you and *saying*:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
[Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
**grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;**

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
**Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.**

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
**Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.**

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER As our Saviour taught us, so we pray: ✠ **Lord's Prayer in different languages**

**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.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,
blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

The body of Christ broken for you

The blood of Christ shed for you

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

✠ 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.

Together we say:

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you
our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

The Dismissal – The Lord sends us out

FINAL HYMN **Freely, freely we have received, freely freely give**

Let us take the words of this hymns as an encouragement and strength for the week to come

<https://youtu.be/8vhMfCjzXqk>

BLESSING

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth,
give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of God;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord Alleluia! Alleluia!

In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!