

5 June 2022

Hymn Come down o love divine TIS

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### Sentence

God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5.5

### Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Prayer of the Day

O God, who in smoke and fire upon Mount Sinai gave the law to Moses, and who revealed the new covenant in the fire of the Spirit: grant, we pray, that, kindled by that same Spirit which you poured forth upon your apostles, we may fulfil with joy your commandment of love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### Acts 2.1-21

<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. <sup>7</sup> Utterly amazed, they asked: 'Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?' <sup>8</sup> Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?

<sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs – we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!

<sup>12</sup> Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, 'What does this mean?' <sup>13</sup> Some, however, made fun of them and said, 'They have had too much wine.' <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> "'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. <sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. <sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

<sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. <sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

### Psalm 104.26-36

<sup>26</sup> Lord, how various are your works: in wisdom you have made them all, and the earth is full of your creatures. <sup>27</sup> There is the wide, immeasurable sea: there move living things without number, great and small; <sup>28</sup> There go the ships, to and fro: and there is that Leviathan whom you formed to sport in the deep. <sup>29</sup> These all look to you: to give them their food in due season. <sup>30</sup> When you give it to them, they gather it: when you open your hand they are satisfied with good things. <sup>31</sup> When you hide your face, they are troubled: when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. <sup>32</sup> When you send forth your spirit they are created: and you renew the face of the earth. <sup>33</sup> May the glory of the Lord endure for ever: may the Lord rejoice in his works. <sup>34</sup> If he look upon the earth, it shall tremble: if he but touch the mountains, they shall smoke. <sup>35</sup> I will sing to the Lord as long as I live: I will praise my God while I have any being. <sup>36</sup> May my meditation be pleasing to him: for my joy shall be in the Lord.

### Romans 8.14-17

<sup>14</sup> For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. <sup>15</sup> The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'

<sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. <sup>17</sup> Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

### John 14.8-17

<sup>8</sup> Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.' <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered: 'Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? <sup>10</sup> Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. <sup>11</sup> Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup> Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. <sup>15</sup> 'If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever – <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

Sermon

### Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayers

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

**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.**

Jesus said: A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you. John 13.34

## Confession

The Spirit of truth comes to convict of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement.

Let us then open our hearts and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God,

who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

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

Hymn TIS 409 O Breath of Life

## OFFERTORY

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.

Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

## Thanksgiving

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Loving God, we thank you for this world of wonder and delight. You have given it to us to care for, so that all your creatures may enjoy its bounty. Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

We thank you that when we turned away from you, you sent Jesus to live and work as one of us, and bring us back to you.

He showed us how to love you and set us free to love and serve one another.

Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

We thank you that on the cross Jesus took away our sin, all that keeps us from each other and from you.

He frees us from hate and fear, from all that destroys love and trust.

Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Today we give you thanks that in fulfilment of your promise you pour forth your Spirit upon us, filling us with gifts and leading us into all truth.

Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

And so with everyone who believes in you, with all the saints and angels, we rejoice and praise you, 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.**

Holy and gracious God, all creation rightly gives you praise. All life, all holiness, comes from you through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, whom you sent to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

Hear us, merciful Lord; through Christ accept our sacrifice of praise; and, by the power of your Word and Holy Spirit, sanctify this bread and wine, that we who share in this holy sacrament may be partakers of Christ's body and blood. Who, when his hour had come, on the night before he went up to the cross to make full atonement for the sins of the whole world, offering once for all his one sacrifice of himself, 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.'

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Therefore, in obedience to his command, we commemorate and celebrate his saving passion and death, his mighty resurrection and ascension into heaven and we eagerly await his coming again in glory.

We thank you that by your grace alone you have accepted us in Christ; and here we offer you a spiritual sacrifice, holy and acceptable in your sight.

Through Christ, receive this our duty and service, and grant that we who eat and drink these holy gifts may, by your Holy Spirit, be one body in Christ, and serve you in unity and peace.

In your grace and mercy, bring us to the joy of your eternal kingdom with all the company of the redeemed. May we praise you in union with them, and give you glory through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, gracious Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

You have gathered us together to feed on Christ and to remember all he has done for us:

Fill us with your Spirit that we may follow Jesus in all we do and say, working for justice and bringing your peace to this world that you have made. Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

As this broken bread was once many grains, which have been gathered together and made one bread:

**so may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life.

Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life.

Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you and be thankful.

The body of Christ, The blood of Christ

**After Communion**

Giver of life and love, we thank you that in this heavenly banquet you invigorate and renew us. Living in the unity of the Spirit, may we boldly use your gifts to continue your work in the world.

**Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.**

**Hymn TIS 152 Joyful Joyful, we adore you**

God stir up within you the gift of the Spirit that you may confess Jesus Christ as Lord and proclaim the joy of the everlasting gospel wherever you may be; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



Happy birthday! Today we are celebrating the birth of the church. The day when the Holy Spirit came on all the believers and equipped them to be the people God had called them to be, to proclaim the gospel and live out Jesus' promises: to become the church.

For the Jews in Biblical times Pentecost was the fiftieth day after Passover, (Pentecost means 50) a day when farmers brought the first sheaf of wheat from the crop and offered it to God, partly as a sign of gratitude and partly as a prayer that all the rest of the crop would be safely gathered in. But for everyone it also had great spiritual and historical significance.



Passover was the time when they remembered the lamb who was sacrificed to protect them from the avenging angel, who slew the firstborn of the Egyptians and resulted in their freedom.

Fifty days later they arrived at Mt Sinai and Moses received the law. So, Pentecost was never just about the physical harvest, its about God giving his redeemed people the way of life by which they could now carry out his purposes.

You can see the echoes of that festival in our account by Luke: the first believers being filled with the spirit and then going on to bear powerful witness to Jesus and his resurrection; winning converts from the very first day, is a sign of the great harvest to come.

Moses went up the mountain and returned with the law: Jesus ascended into heaven and comes down again in the person of the Holy Spirit, not with the written law but with the dynamic energy of the law, designed to be written on human hearts and the power to live it.



spirit is the direct result of the Ascension of Jesus: because of all, his energy the power to be and do things which are new, is with the spirit to all who call on him, all who follow him, all who trust him.

Luke described what it was like when the spirit came, with images of fire and wind. Many people since have used similar images to describe what it is like when the spirit comes to do new things in the lives of communities and individuals. The whole point is that, through the spirit, some of the creative power of God himself comes from heaven to earth and does its work here. The point of this creative energy is not to give people a spiritual experience which makes the things of earth irrelevant. The point is to transform earth with the power of heaven, starting with the bodies, minds, hearts, and lives of Jesus' followers.



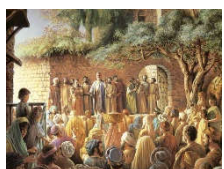
The promised spirit arrived from heaven with special effects, sounding like 'violent wind' and appearing like 'tongues of fire'. Because of these special effects the community's reception of God's spirit is obvious, and the Lord's prophecy is fulfilled beyond doubt. The passage does not say that Holy Spirit is wind or fire, rather the spirit is compared to the sound that wind makes and what fire can look like. Luke's intent is to create a vivid impression of the Spirit's manifestation among the community of the Lord's disciples. Luke's symbolism of the spirit's presence not only signified the power to speak the word of God effectively but also to think about God in fresh and inspired ways.

Luke stresses that they were all together, all the disciples, all those who loved Jesus, not just the eleven, not just the men, perhaps even children - all of them. The spirit does not come to only the worthy or the super spiritual, not to the clever or the dedicated but to all. The spirit comes not to divide, but to unite.



On this occasion the spirit came with noise and light which must have been both terrifying and exhilarating to those present but as we are told later in Acts about other occasions when the Spirit comes softly and gently, even secretly, quietly transforming people's lives without any noise or fuss. On other occasions the spirit is depicted as the water of life or as a dove. The spirit works in each situation as is right for that situation, that person and that occasion. He will only do for each person what they are able to bear, he will never force anyone to do anything that they are not happy doing.

Some people have remarkable experiences perhaps because they are going to need to know very clearly just how powerful and life transforming God can be. Other people work in quiet and patient ways and do not rely on a burst of extra power to fix problems which need a much steadier, and perhaps deeper work. There is no room for pride or jealousy in the body of Christ where we all learn to be delighted with the gifts that are given to others as with those which are given to ourselves. The spirit belongs to a people of God as their shared, permanent property.



The household of Israel had gathered in the Holy City to celebrate God's wise care. The gift of the Holy Spirit is another example of God's goodness to Israel, and it models God's faithfulness in keeping divine promises.

The power of the spirit in this case manifests an extraordinary ability for them to speak in other languages, that was foreign languages unknown to them. Luke in listing all these places is giving us the sense of the great multilingual company who all heard words spoken in their own language.



This gift of tongues should not be confused with the phenomena that is often practiced in charismatic churches sometimes called the language of angels which no one understands, including the speaker and is used primarily for the uplifting of the person speaking (although sometimes it is interpreted for the benefit of those around). This gifting in our reading today was specifically so that those who were filled with the spirit could tell those who were visiting about Jesus and God's mighty deeds.



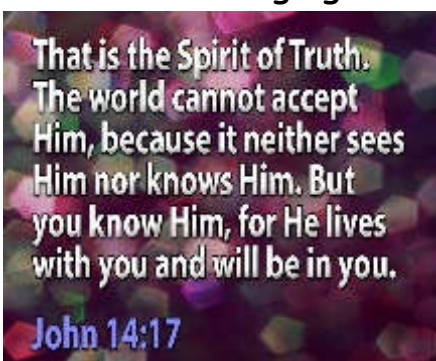
This gift of speaking know languages is not as well known as the other but there are well attested instances in modern as well as ancient times of people speaking in a language of which they have no knowledge and discovering that someone present can understand them. There is no explanation for this other than that God is God and when he needs to speak to someone, he will do it.

The locals heard all this noise and thought that these people were drunk. Even today people discredit things the church does but we should be sure that keeping up appearances and looking like safe normal people is never our priority. If the spirit leads us to do something different or unusual, we need to be prepared to step out and follow him.



Back in the 70's, I was attending a group where they asked me if I wanted to receive the Holy Spirit. I said 'yes but that I didn't want to be able to speak the language of angels' as I could not see how it could be edifying. Later I apologised to God and said that I was willing to receive anything he wanted to give me. Afterwards I realised that I was singing a familiar tune but with unfamiliar words. I still do it occasionally, but these days I strive to grow the Fruit of the Spirit rather than the gifts.

While the original Pentecost was a special moment in time it is not a unique event from long ago. Luke 's narrative of this wonderful event shows the



powerful and effective nature of God's ongoing presence among those who follow God's Messiah. The Spirit has always been doing God's work on earth, like in our Psalm but Jesus gave us the gift of the spirit of truth so that we can truly be the children of God. He is always with you, if you are not aware of Him speak to him and ask him to lead you into the truth.