



Chet Valley Churches



**Welcome to our service of
Holy Communion for Pentecost
31st May 2020**

The Greeting and Welcome

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

God says: I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
The Spirit has come. Alleluia!

Christ says: I will ask the Father and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever.
The Spirit has come. Alleluia!

**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.**

♪♪ Hymn: *Come Down O Love Divine*

**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.**

Confession

Let us confess our sins to God.

Triune God your Spirit brings us many different gifts: forgive us when we have coveted only the spectacular ones...

Lord have mercy,
Lord have mercy.

Your Spirit speaks to us through many different voices: forgive us when we have cut off the disconcerting ones...

Lord have mercy,
Lord have mercy.

Your Spirit offers us many different insights: forgive us when we have considered only the comfortable ones...

Lord have mercy,
Lord have mercy.

Your Spirit invites us into many different moments of possibility: forgive us when we have closed down the costly ones...

Lord have mercy,
Lord have mercy.

Spirit of the living God, beyond time, and yet here with us now—give us the wisdom to receive and treasure all your gifts, the discernment to hear and respond to your voice, the understanding to see and follow your patterns, and the courage to recognise and seize your moments. So may

we grow in knowledge of Christ's Kingdom, deepen in dependence on its grace, and love in accordance with its measures. **Amen.**

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.**

♪♪ **Peruvian Gloria**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father.

To him be glory forever. To him be glory forever.
Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen.

Glory to God, glory to God, son of the Father.
Glory to God, glory to God, son of the Father.

To him be glory forever...

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit.

To him be glory forever...



📖 **First Reading: Acts 2:1-21**

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: ‘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.”

For the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: *The Spirit Lives to Set Us Free*

**The Spirit lives to set us free, walk, walk in the light.
He binds us all in unity, walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light, walk in the light, walk in the light,
Walk in the light of the Lord.**

**Jesus promised life to all, walk, walk in the light.
The dead were wakened by his call, walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light, walk in the light, walk in the light,
Walk in the light of the Lord.**

**He died in pain on Calvary, walk, walk in the light.
To save the lost like you and me, walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light, walk in the light, walk in the light,
Walk in the light of the Lord.**

**We know his death was not the end, walk, walk in the light.
He gave his Spirit to be our friend, walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light, walk in the light, walk in the light,
Walk in the light of the Lord.**

**By Jesus' love our wounds are healed, walk, walk in the light.
The Father's kindness is revealed, walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light, walk in the light, walk in the light,
Walk in the light of the Lord.**

**The Spirit lives in you and me, walk, walk in the light;
His light will shine for all to see, walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light, walk in the light, walk in the light,
Walk in the light of the Lord.**

Gospel Reading: *John 20:19-23*

When 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. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

For the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

During our walks I often carry my binoculars with me. Not that seeing some bird or other enables me to identify it but at least it gives me a sporting chance compared to the speck that I'd see with the naked eye. The only problem I have occurs when I'm distracted and turn round it then takes me a while to locate the same bird, if I can find it at all... Being distracted is one of our greatest challenges in life.

The readings for Pentecost Sunday give us much to ponder over. The events as they are recalled in the reading from Acts gives us a culmination

to events which have already happened whilst also giving us a new beginning.

So I wonder how we'd have reacted if we'd been present on that Pentecost. I wonder if we'd have reacted like this...

It was an incredible sight! We were rubbing our eyes, pinching ourselves, looking at one another in wonder and fear. Then—the words came. I think it was Peter at first, but then John, and then someone else, and then another, until all the disciples—every single person in that house—were talking and chattering away.

A man behind me shouted: 'They must be drunk!'

But a man standing near me said: 'No. I understand what he's saying. He's speaking a Mede dialect.'

A rabbi corrected him. 'No, my son, that's Aramaic.'

I heard a woman mutter under her breath, 'Men! It's clearly Egyptian they are speaking.'

Me, I'm no good at languages. It was all Greek to me.

But everybody—and I mean everybody—Roman, Jew, Turk, Cyrenian, Galilean, all the different nationalities that were standing there in the street—heard—each in his or her native tongue—what the followers of Jesus were saying.

It was an awesome display of power and majesty. I felt like one of the ancient Israelites must have felt when God spoke to Moses from the mountaintop, in thunder and lightning.

Well, you know the rest. Peter came out of the house and spoke to all the people standing in the street. He had a quiet crowd—believe me.

What a sight: This uneducated fisherman speaking to a crowd composed of every race and nation in the world. You know, some say the Church was born on that day. Others say it was the day that the Holy Spirit came down.

Me, I think it was the day Peter became the person God intended him to be. What a speech—so simple but powerful.

As the Apostle Peter clearly found out it is the Spirit who gives us the power to be the people God intends us to be and we must make sure that we don't get distracted with the busy-ness of life from keeping our focus on the third person of the Trinity.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe. Amen.**

Intercessions

In the power of the Spirit let us pray.

In your power,
Holy Spirit come among us.

Come, Holy Spirit, creator, and renew the earth.

In your power,
Holy Spirit come among us.

Come, Holy Spirit, counsellor, and touch our lips that we may proclaim your word.

In your power,
Holy Spirit come among us.

Come, Holy Spirit, power from on high, make us channels of peace and ministers of healing.

In your power,
Holy Spirit come among us.

Come, Holy Spirit, breath of God, give life to the dry bones around us and make us a living people holy and free.

In your power,
Holy Spirit come among us.

Come Holy Spirit, wisdom and truth; strengthen us to be bold in faith.

In your power,
Holy Spirit come among us.

♪ **Hymn: Spirit of God Unseen as the Wind**

***Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
Gentle as is the dove;
Teach us the truth and help us believe,
Show us the Saviour's love!***

**You spoke to us long, long ago,
Gave us the written word;
We read it still, needing its truth
Through it God's voice is heard.**

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind...

**Without your help we fail our Lord,
We cannot live His way;
We need Your power, we need Your strength,
Following Christ each day.**

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind...



The Communion

Invitation

Here there is a table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is to be made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more.

So, come, you who have much faith and sometimes doubt a little; you who have been to his table often, but in many different places.

Come, not because I invite you: It is Jesus, it is his will that those who want him should meet him.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord is here. **His Spirit 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.

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things and all your works echo the silent music of your praise. In the fullness of time you made us in your image, the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven we may find a voice to sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast. From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends and, taking bread, he gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said: "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."

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory. Remember, Lord, your Church wherever we might be.

Bring us at the last with all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

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

The Lord's Prayer

Being made one by the power of the Spirit, as Jesus, our Saviour taught us, so we 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.

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

Our Lord comes to us in bread and wine.

They are the gifts of God for the people of God.

♪ Final Hymn: *Thine Be the Glory, Risen Conquering Son*

**Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won;
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.
*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, Thou o'er death hast won.***

**Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
Let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.
*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, Thou o'er death hast won.***

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.
*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, Thou o'er death hast won.***



The Dismissal

God speaks to us **in the riches of Creation.**

God speaks to us **in the stories of Jesus.**

God speaks to us **in the lives of other people.**

God speaks to us **in words and ways that we can understand.**

God of fire and beauty; **Warm us.**

God of peace and justice; **Disturb us.**

God of wind and wonder; **Amaze us.**

God of Pentecost; **Kindle your love in our lives.**

And now, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**