



Heacham Parish Church

Sunday Service Heacham Parish Church at Home

Pentecost May 31st 2020

We should have be celebrating Pentecost this year, in a marquee on the football field, with Heacham Methodist Church and the UK Gospel Choir, to celebrate the difference our faith makes to us, and to share that with our neighbours and friends. Instead we gather in our homes.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

As the first disciples gathered, so we gather in our homes, together yet apart and pray:

Jesus Christ, whom we worship, is our crucified, risen and ascended Lord and we have walked with him through his journey of love.

We have faced the agony of his suffering and death on a cross.

We have rejoiced at his bursting free from the bonds of death.

We have enjoyed his risen presence with us and his revelation of himself through the breaking of bread.

We have seen 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. **Amen**

Come, Holy Spirit; fill us with your peace.

Come, Holy Spirit; unite us in our worship.

Come, Holy Spirit; raise us by your power.

Come, Holy Spirit, come now

Hymn: Breathe on me breath of God sung and played by Amanda, Judith, Hilary, Lesley, Lynda, Richard and Sue

Bible Reading: Acts 2: 1-21 read by Lois Carrick

Reflection by Revd Steve Oliver

What does Pentecost mean to you? It's an important question on this special day. Because it must really mean something deep within us. That is going to move us into new places; move us to witness for Jesus. To strengthen us and to give us courage. Because things should be and must be different as we accept the Spirit into our hearts' that burning desire to do the things we are asked to do. And yes, it's not going to be the normal things because the Spirit doesn't move us into places that are just normal. The Spirit wants to go out and ensure our voices are heard that our faith is seen as a strength in this ever-deepening worrying world. It would have been great to have been together on that field singing with the community with the Choir. But the Spirit will enable us to do something different; the Spirit will inspire us to do something. You see Jesus didn't ask us to build a Church but to build a community of faith, a community of

witnesses which will go out further to make huge differences to people's lives.

The Spirit came to set us free but that freedom is not about doing what we like; that freedom is about living the life Jesus wants us to live. Are you ready for that? Can you go and do what the Spirit wants you to do? Or do you block it off; do you block Him and say I can't do that; that's not where I am, that's not the place I want to be. But just feel that burning desire which requires you to go out of your comfort zone, to be the person Jesus wants you to be.

Pentecost is just a wonderful time; the hymns that we sing at Pentecost just move us and help us to help our souls to burn for Jesus. Pentecost is all about revival; not just about revival out there but also revival of ourselves. It's about transformation, not just our communities but transformation of ourselves. It's about our souls being ready to burn for Jesus. So, on this Pentecost Sunday just sit for a while and feel what the Spirit is asking you; feel that burning desire once more within you and be ready.

The disciples sat in that room ready for something, but they didn't know what. That is the same for you and me. We are waiting for something and we just don't know what it will be until it happens. But when it does come its going to change everything. It's going to change you, it's going to change me, it's going to change our community and it's going to change the world.

Now is the time to make things happen; to open your hearts to the Spirit this day. Let Him move you where he wants you to be and do not be afraid. We will do it for Him, we will do it because that is what we want to do. We want to make disciples for God, for Jesus. We want more people to feel the new life of the Spirit. So come on, we can do this together.

I hope you have a wonderful Pentecost Sunday; it's been wonderful to be with you once more.

Prayers of intercession: written and led by Jennifer Aickin

The Bible has many accounts of Jesus praying to His Father and He encouraged His disciples to pray too. So let us on this Pentecost Sunday follow His example and bring our intercessory, our asking, prayers to the God of all the universe Who knows our every need and what is best for us.

At the end of each short section I shall say "Lord in Your mercy" and you might like to answer at home "**Hear our prayer**".

We pray for our Queen and her family, thanking You for her steadfast faith which is such an example and encouragement to us. Please keep and protect her and give her peace.

We remember the government and all in authority and ask that they may act with wisdom and integrity, making the right decisions in important matters and having the best interests of the country in focus at all times.

Lord in Your mercy **hear our prayer**

We pray for our village community thanking You that we live in such a lovely place amongst friendly, helpful people. Thank You for putting helpfulness into so many people's hearts in this difficult time of the Covid19 epidemic. We remember the heartbreak of those who have lost friends and family members, asking for Your comfort and loving presence to be with them. We thank you for the skill and sacrifice of key workers and ask for strength and safety for them. Help us to show our appreciation and gratitude for all that they do.

Lord in Your mercy **hear our prayer**

We remember before You those who are ill, anxious, depressed, lonely and ask for healing and comfort for them. Show us how we may bring Your love to the people You bring into our lives.

We ask for comfort and hope for people recently bereaved, especially in the present restrictions around funerals. Please be with our Vicar as she takes funerals and help the undertakers and staff at the crematorium to cope with the situation and still be able to provide dignity and calm for the mourners.

Lord we have several dear friends who are nearing the end of their earthly lives. Give them peace and confirm their faith that You will receive them into Glory. Please take them gently to be with You.

Lord in Your mercy **hear our prayer**

We pray for the children of the village, their schools and teachers. Please give their parents patience and ingenuity as they attempt home schooling. We ask that those in authority will decide wisely how to manage safely the opening of the schools again.

Lord in Your mercy **hear our prayer**

As we look at the wider world we see so many dreadful situations, so much need. Lord support and protect the organisations and courageous people who spend their lives trying to make a difference by providing help and rescue. We pray for wisdom and integrity amongst world leaders so that conflict may reduce and the resources of the world be more fairly shared.

Lord in Your mercy **hear our prayer**

On this Pentecost Sunday we look at ourselves and wonder how willing we are to receive the Holy Spirit's inspiration and burning desire to find and do Your will, as Steve spoke about in his talk. Help us not to fear what might be asked of us but to be willing for and welcome a closer, deeper walk with You.

Lord, we thank You for all that we know and experience of You, all that You show us of Yourself. Help us to offer each day of this week to You to use us as Spirit - filled witnesses to Your love and saving power.

Accept these prayers for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

Let us pray together the Lord 's Prayer

Musical offering: W is for Whitsun from Adrian and Jean Flower

O thou who camest from above
The pure celestial fire to impart
Kindle a flame of sacred love
On the mean altar of my heart

There let it for Thy glory burn
With inextinguishable blaze
And trembling to its source return
In humble prayer and fervent praise

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
To work and speak and think for Thee
Still let me guard the holy fire
And still stir up Thy gift in me

Ready for all Thy perfect will
My acts of faith and love repeat
Till death Thine endless mercies seal
And make the sacrifice complete

As we journey through the days ahead,
inspire our thoughts, clothe our dreams, and colour our prayers,
that we might dare to live confidently, compassionately
and courageously as your Pentecost people.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

We pray together

Come, Holy Spirit, fill my home with peace.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill my heart with love.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill my life with your power.

Amen.

May God's holy, healing, enabling Spirit be with you and guide
you on your way at every change and turn and the blessing of God
almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and
those you love, now and always. **Amen**

Filled with the Spirit's power, we go in the light and peace of
Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

For those without access to the internet:

A new telephone worship service: **Daily Hope**, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind. This is a freephone service.

Also The Diocesan weekly podcast **Sunday Hope** can be listened to via your phone by calling **01603 537577**- calls for this are charged at a local rate.