

**St Paul's Methodist Church, Crawley**

## *Worship at Home*

**A service to follow in your own place and at your own time  
when you are unable to attend church in person**

**19<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

**Theme: *The rushing wind of the Holy Spirit***

**by Deacon Jenny Parnell**



### ***Call to Worship***

God of great mercy and love, we come to you this day seeking restoration give us a new vision of all that we can accomplish in your name give us strength and confidence the treaty witness to your abiding love and faithfulness we offer this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen

### ***Let us join in prayer***

God of unimaginable love, we give you thanks and praise for the love that welcomes the unlovely. For love that pardons the unworthy for the love that knows no limit. We give you thanks and praise in the love that inspires our worship.

God almighty immortal invisible who's being is far beyond human thought and understanding, we praise you for revealing yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Three persons and yet one God.

God the Father, you created the universe in all its vastness and variety. You made us in your own image and when we fell into sin you sent your son the Lord Jesus Christ to be our saviour. We worship and adore you. You gave us the gift of your Son for our salvation. You came to this earth, lived a life of love, died for us on the cross, rose from the dead and gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit. We worship and adore you.

God the Holy Spirit you come into our lives, transforming, renewing, strengthening, and guiding us in the ways of Christ. You call us into the life of faith and gather us with all the people of God into the fellowship of Christ's Church. We worship and adore you. If knowing these things we recognise that we have sinned then we ask for your forgiveness. We thank you for your forgiveness and we praise you. Amen

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and  
ever. Amen

### **Hymn StF 395**

Spirit of the living God,  
Fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me.  
Break me, break me, melt me  
mould me, fill me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me.  
Daniel Iverson (1890 to 1977)

### **Our New Testament Reading is Acts 2: 1-8, 12-21**

*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 people 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? 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, "Fellow Jews 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.'*

### ***Jenny's message***

The apostles were together, experiencing bewilderment over how to move forward when the Holy flows among them and breathes courage into their lives. It says that those who witnessed this event were amazed and perplexed. Some were confused and others were cynical. Peter reminds the crowds of the words the prophet Joel declared that all will be called to dreams and visions, all will need to be attentive to signs and wonders.

Often, we think of the work of the Holy Spirit as something intensely personal. The work of the Holy Spirit we imagine takes place within the confines of the human heart and is encountered as we take an inward journey. We think only when we get away from the clamour of the worlds many voices will we hear the still small whispers of the Holy Spirit who guides us on our way. It's true the Spirit is able to speak into our lives in personal ways, but we should be aware that it is almost a total inversion of the Holy Spirit we encounter on the day of Pentecost.

The second chapter of Acts provides us with a first impression of the Holy Spirit. the Holy Spirit comes to a community that has been gathered together. The disciples had not gone off on their own personal vision quests wanting to be alone in a moment of quiet. They were together. The Spirit's actions were also anything but a gentle whisper to be felt and cherished. We're told that the Spirit came as a mighty rushing wind, so noisy that the onlookers thought that the disciples who were speaking in different languages, were drunk.

As scripture reminds us, the purpose of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit is the Spirit's movement. In Acts 2, that movement is outward and upward. Outward because it is a gift that we could never just cling to. In Acts 2 the gift of language does little for the disciples personally. When we read the scripture it makes them seem silly. The gift is for the sake of others, for every race and nation. We do not pray for a Holy Spirit that we can summon for ourselves. The Spirit comes in so that the gospel may go out. The outward movement of the Holy Spirit also moves people upward, raising up those whose eyes are downcast and giving a glimpse of the glory of God.

The upward movement can be traced in Peter's sermon which sets the truth plainly before his hearers and begs the unavoidable question " *What shall we do?*" Acts 2:37. The Spirit goes out so that all might be lifted up.

So, we pray not for a gentle word of comfort that we can lock away safely in ourselves but for an outward and upward movement a rushing wind that stirs even the farthest corners of the world. We pray for the power of the Spirit to enable us to preach the gospel to those around us. By the power of the Spirit, we pray that we and others would come to know God more fully. Amen

### ***Let us pray for the needs of others***

Loving God, we ask for the gift of your Holy Spirit to help us to pray as we ought. We ask for the energy and vision of your Spirit for those who are fighting against injustice and oppression and for those who are exhausted with their struggle against poverty and hunger.

We ask for the hope and comfort of your Spirit for those whose lives are overshadowed by illness or pain for those whose lives are darkened by sorrow.

We ask for the peace of your Spirit for those who are caught up in war and conflict and the courage and hope of your Spirit for those reaching out to comfort the distressed.

We ask these things in and through the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

### ***The Blessing***

May the rainbow of many colours find you to God himself.

May the soft wind of heaven refresh your spirit and sunshine brighten your day.

May the burdens of the day rest lightly upon you and may God enfold you in love.

May the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you now and always. Amen