

Welcome to Sunday morning worship online from the Parishes of Cudham and Downe. I'm Rev John Musson, vicar; and in this special service on Pentecost Sunday I'm glad to say lots of people will be taking part, all safely pre-recorded. There is a craft activity from Denise, more details about this on our website pcd.org.uk and for my talk later you'll need a balloon, though don't worry if you haven't got one!

Pentecost, the day the church was free from lockdown, and went out sharing the good news of Jesus in the power of the promised holy Spirit. It's also sometimes called the birthday of the church. So I invite you to join in this service of celebration and thanksgiving. All the words you need will be on the screen in bold.

Holy Spirit, you are welcome.

**Come among us like a wind,
like a fire, like a dove.**

**Come gently or come boldly.
We are waiting for you.
Amen.**

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Who can dance for God? | Anyone! |
| Who can sing to God? | Anyone! |
| Who can play for God? | Anyone! |
| Who can serve God? | Anyone! |
| Who belongs to God? | Anyone! |

**Anyone?
Everyone!**

Song...
Our God is a great big God
Our God is a great big God
Our God is a great big God
And He holds us in His hands
He's higher than a skyscraper
He's deeper than a submarine
He's wider than the universe
And beyond my wildest dreams
He's known me and He's loved me
Since before the world began
How wonderful to be a part of
God's amazing plan

**When we exclude others:
Lord, forgive us.**

**When we judge others:
Lord, forgive us.**

**When we make it hard for others:
Lord, forgive us.**

Forgive us and include us, as we choose to include friends and strangers. Amen.

May God who loved the world so much that He sent His Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve Him in this world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading:

With the sound of a whirlwind it came, rushing into the house where the followers of Jesus were gathered. There was a commotion and flames as the Holy Spirit came, resting on each of the disciples like a tongue of fire.

As it whooshed into the room, the Spirit filled them all with foreign languages, and the disciples spoke in words they didn't understand. Inspired, and with words gushing out of them, they went out into the streets.

It was the festival of Pentecost and Jerusalem was full of Jews from all over the world. When the disciples came out into the street, the crowds heard them speaking the message of Jesus in their own languages. They were amazed. 'How can this be?' they asked. 'All the followers of Jesus are from Galilee, but we can hear their message loud and clear in words we understand.'

Not everyone was impressed, though. Some listeners sneered, 'These people are drunk.' Peter, still filled to overflowing with the Spirit's power, stood up in front of all the people.

'We are not drunk,' he said. 'It's only nine in the morning. No, you are seeing and hearing what the prophet Joel spoke about in the Old Testament.'

Peter continued: 'Joel said, "God will pour his Spirit on all people; children will prophesy and adults will see holy visions. The Spirit is for everyone, men, women and children; there will be signs in heaven and on earth, and these will be the last days. Everyone who calls on the Lord's name shall be saved."'

Like a fiery whirlwind it came, and the Spirit breathed new life into the followers of Jesus.

Talk:

I wonder if you've had a birthday during lockdown? How was it?

It helps us think what makes birthdays special, and lots of people have found new ways of doing it – maybe a home baked cake rather than one from the shops? A zoom party? One favourite is still to have balloons! I've got a balloon here – how many blows do you think I'll take to blow it up – if you've got one – try with me

(How many? Did I beat you?)

What is needed to blow up the balloon?

Wind/air and power, especially when the first puff starts to inflate the balloon.

Today, as we heard in the bible reading we celebrate Pentecost, sometimes called the birthday of the church.

Did you hear that in our reading – Jesus friends were in lockdown – not because of Coronavirus, but because their friend Jesus was no longer with them, but he'd told them to wait together for something new to happen – and it did – 10 days after he'd gone back to his father in heaven, the followers of Jesus were together there was a sound like a whirlwind rushing into the house where they were. Just as our balloons were filled by the power of my lungs so God breathed His Spirit's new life into the first followers of Jesus. The Holy Spirit gave them power show and tell others about Jesus love and about three thousand people became followers of Jesus that day.

If you've had a lockdown birthday, I wonder what happened about your presents? I'm sure you still got some! (show bag) when it's someone's birthday *one* person gets *all* the presents.

On the day of Pentecost *everyone* received *one* present, the Holy Spirit and that's still true today. The Holy Spirit lives in the heart of each and every one of us who is a Christian. He helps us to be like Jesus and to tell others about Jesus love. The day of Pentecost showed that the good news of Jesus is for everyone. Did you hear what happened in our reading There were people in Jerusalem from many countries and the Holy Spirit helped the followers of Jesus to speak to them about God in their own languages! Everyone can know the love of God through you and me today thanks to the gift of the Holy Spirit to us.

So Pentecost is the birthday of the church- the first Christians came out of lockdown into the world – while we might still need to be 2 metres apart, we can still show Jesus love – we don't need church buildings to do that, do we? Jesus is for everyone and the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts to help us be more like Jesus.

And there's more – remember I said at a birthday that one person gets all the presents, but at Pentecost everyone received one present, the Holy Spirit – yet for each of that present, that gift can be different too – St Paul describes how the one Spirit gives different gifts. And to help me I need my balloon again – you might like to join in – as I blow into my balloon, you can do the same:-
the gift of sharing God's love,
the gift of telling others about Jesus
the gift of bringing God's health and wholeness
the gift of helping others practically
and there are many more.... Ask God to give you his gifts – and then remember
(last blow) the greatest gift of all is Love

(hold balloon up and be ready to let go as I say 'amen')

Thank you Lord God for the gift of your Holy Spirit, given to all, young and old, men and women and children, help us to share your gifts each and every day...

3,2,1, amen (let balloon go!)

Response:

Pour out your Spirit, loving Lord,
that your sons and your daughters may hear your prophetic word.

Pour out your Spirit, loving Lord,
that your sons and your daughters may know how to live according to your ways.

Pour out your Spirit, loving Lord,
that your sons and your daughters may worship you in Spirit and in Truth.
Amen.

Creed:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?
We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?
We believe and trust in him.

**Do you believe and trust in
God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?
We believe and trust in him.**

**This is the faith of the Church.
This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Prayers of intercession ending with...
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.**

**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**

Video encouraging people to give financially to support the church

**Closing song:- (cudham school video)
When I look out on this world,
I feel a song of praise rising to you today,
Thank you Lord,
You have been good to me,
And I give to you the highest praise.
Lord I give to you the highest.
The highest, the highest praise.
Lord I give to you the highest,
The highest, the highest praise.
When I wake up from my sleep,
I may not know what the day will hold (day will hold)
But come rain or shine,
I'm gonna trust you as my life unfolds (life unfolds)
When I look out on this world,
I feel a song of praise rising to you today,
Thank you Lord,**

**You have been good to me,
And I give to you the highest praise.
Lord I give to you the highest,
The highest, the highest praise.
Lord I give to you the highest,
The highest, the highest praise. (twice)
Lord I give to you the highest praise.**

(end)

Thanks Mr Finch and the school community at Cudham for that song and video. Do remember to pray for all those involved in education as some more children return to school over the next few weeks.

**Closing prayers and blessing:
May the power of the Spirit challenge you.**

May the peace of the Spirit comfort you.

May the presence of the Spirit enable you to live in love and service in the name of Christ.

**And may the blessing of God; the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you
now and always. Amen.**

