

May 2021



Dear all,

A People of Pentecost

We celebrate the feast of Pentecost as the “end” of the Easter season. It affirms who we are as the Church – the People of God, called to spread the news far and wide of the mighty words and works of Jesus Christ.

We may not have the gift of tongues bestowed upon the disciples, but we are gifted with the same grace and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Like those early disciples, we are called to put our own gifts to use each and every day to build the Kingdom of God. It might not be as dramatic as the original Pentecost, but it is no less effective.

As we journey towards that huge celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit, ask God to fill you anew – to empty you of doubt, of fear, of anxiety, and to fill you with his love, his peace, his strength. And ask what he wants you to do to help build his Kingdom here on earth.

All God’s blessings,

Bryan, Karen, Jan, Lynda, Fay, and Suz

SUNDAY 2nd MAY

Reading: John 21:1-14 – Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish

Song: Here is bread, here is wine
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0UFCECriLo>

Here is bread, here is wine,
Christ is with us – He is with us;
Break the bread, drink the wine –
Christ is with us here.

In this bread there is healing,
In this cup there’s life forever;
In this moment, by the Spirit
Christ is with us here.

Here is grace, here is peace,
Christ is with us – He is with us;
Know His grace, find His peace –
Feast on Jesus here.

Here we are, joined in one,
Christ is with us – He is with us;
We’ll proclaim, till He comes –
Jesus crucified.

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*Lord, we praise you because you have shown us
that you are not a dead hero
to be honoured and respected
but who cannot share our lives today.
We praise you not only because you died to be our Saviour
But also because you rose again to be our Lord;
That you were not only raised from the dead
but also you are alive and present with us
and you are our living Lord.
We praise you for the sense of peace, hope, joy and meaning
With which your presence fills our lives.
Lord, without you we should be lost, alone and without hope.
Without your presence in our midst, our worship would be empty;
Our Christian lives a meaningless experience
And our witness and service a pointless sham.
We praise you for your appearances to your disciples
In their ordinary moments of life
And in their everyday lives.
We praise you too for the way you have come
To men and women down the centuries
And that you have come into our lives too.
Lord, because you are alive
And in the midst of all we say and do and are,
You enable us to declare the good news with joy and hope
And to do it for your glory.
Amen.*

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SUNDAY 9th MAY

Reading: John 21:15-25 – Jesus reinstates Peter

Song: I'm accepted, I'm forgiven
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmJSEhn7DtU>

I'm accepted, I'm forgiven,
I am fathered by the true and living God.
I'm accepted, no condemnation,
I am loved by the true and living God.

There's no guilt or fear as I draw near
To the Saviour and Creator of the world.
There is joy and peace
As I release my worship to You, O Lord.

*(Rob Hayward © 1985 Kingsway's Thankyou Music..
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*Lord, we confess that we long to know we are forgiven;
That the slate is wiped clean and that we can begin again.*

*Lord, we confess that we find it hard to accept that we are accepted,
That the debt has been paid and that your forgiveness is ours.*

*Lord, we confess that though we long to be forgiven
We find it hard to forgive others;
That we don't want to share with others the gift which we have received
And which like then we simply do not deserve.*

*Lord, by your grace, apply your forgiveness to our lives
That by your Spirit we might become channels of Christ's cleansing and renewal.
In his name and for his glory.
Amen.*

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ASCENSION – SUNDAY 16th MAY

Reading: Acts 1:1-11 – Jesus is taken up into heaven

Song: Jesus Christ, I think upon Your sacrifice
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5M6uaAWjkdo>

Jesus Christ, I think upon Your sacrifice,
You became nothing, poured out to death.
Many times I've wondered at Your gift of
life,
And I'm in that place once again.
And I'm in that place once again.

*And once again I look upon
The cross where You died,
I'm humbled by Your mercy
And I'm broken inside.
Once again I thank You,
Once again I pour out my life.*

Now You are exalted to the highest place,
King of the heavens, where one day I'll
bow.

But for now, I marvel at this saving grace,
And I'm full of praise once again.
I'm full of praise once again.

And once again I look upon ...

Thank You for the cross,
Thank You for the cross,
Thank You for the cross, my Friend.
(Repeat)

And once again I look upon ...

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*Lord, we praise you for the power with which you made the world;
 For the love with which you designed it
 And for the mercy with which you have blessed it.
 We praise you for your glory, your authority, your majesty and your grace.
 Lord, we praise you for those moments when you make us aware all over again
 That, though you are our mighty Creator, you are no far from any of us.
 We pray that your being with us depends on your seeking and not our searching;
 Your being in us depends on your grace and not on our worthiness,
 And your working through us depends on your power and not on our being ready.
 We praise you for your coming to us and for us in Christ.
 We have praised you for his life, death and resurrection.
 Today, Lord, we praise you for his mighty ascension,
 Which speaks to us of his power and his glory, his sovereignty and authority.
 We praise you for the assurance that
 The one who died is the one who is risen, the one who came is the one who is ascended.
 We join with the whole church of Jesus Christ down the centuries and all across the world.
 We ask that by the power of the Holy Spirit
 We may offer words and songs and lives and witness that bring you praise and glory
 Amen.*

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SUNDAY 23rd MAY

Reading: Acts 1:12-23 – Matthias chosen to replace Judas

Song: The Spirit of the Lord, the sovereign Lord, is on me
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NrK6lJjbr-U>

The Spirit of the Lord,
 The sovereign Lord, is on me,
 Because He has anointed me
 To preach good news to the poor:

*Proclaiming Jesus, only Jesus –
 It is Jesus, Saviour, healer and baptiser,
 And the mighty King,
 The victor and deliverer –
 He is Lord, He is Lord, He is Lord!*

And He has called on me
 To bind up all the broken hearts,

To minister release
 To every captivated soul:

Proclaiming Jesus, only Jesus ...

Let righteousness arise
 And blossom as a garden;
 Let praise begin to spring
 In every tongue and nation:

Proclaiming Jesus, only Jesus ...

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*Father, we come
Because you have chosen us for service,
You have called us by your grace,
And you have set us free from all that held us,
And you have made us whole
And enabled us to know you.
We have come to praise and to thank you.
Amen.*

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PENTECOST – SUNDAY 30th MAY

Reading: Acts 2 – The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost

Song: O God of burning, cleansing flame: Send the fire!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qydwzaeVa0>

O God of burning, cleansing flame:
Send the fire!
Your blood-bought gift today we claim:
Send the fire today!
Look down and see this waiting host,
And send the promised Holy Ghost;
We need another Pentecost!
Send the fire today!
Send the fire today!

God of Elijah, hear our cry:
Send the fire!
And make us fit to live or die:
Send the fire today!
To burn up every trace of sin,
To bring the light and glory in,
The revolution now begin!
Send the fire today!
Send the fire today!

It's fire we want, for fire we plead:
Send the fire!
The fire will meet our every need:
Send the fire today!
For strength to always do what's right,
For grace to conquer in the fight,
For power to walk the world in white:
Send the fire today!
Send the fire today!

To make our weak hearts strong and
brave:
Send the fire!
To live, a dying world to save:
Send the fire today!
Oh, see us on Your altar lay,
We give our lives to you today,
So crown the offering now we pray:
Send the fire today!
Send the fire today!
Send the fire today!

*(William Booth. Adpt. Lex Loizides.
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*Lord, we simply had no idea just how wonderful you were.
We have praised you in the past,
But until the Day of Pentecost we had not seen your glory.
We have given you thanks,
But as we celebrate Pentecost
We recognise our utter dependence.
We have worshipped your name,
But on this Pentecost Sunday
We stand overwhelmed by your power.
Lord, how can we not praise you
For what you have shown us
In the coming of the Holy Spirit?
In him, you have revealed
Something of your authority over all things,
Your joy in your creation
And your desire to fill us with your love and power.
Lord, we praise you for your greatness,
Which cannot be confined or restricted in any way;
For the way you have been present and active in your world
From before the dawn of creation.
We praise you for all those
Who down through the centuries have known your truth,
Acknowledged your presence
And been filled with your power.
We praise you that on this Day of Pentecost
Your promise of the Holy Spirit is for us;
That as we are together in this place
We can know what it means to be filled
With the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
Love of God
And the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.
May he empower us to live in you.
Amen.*

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