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PENTECOST C

8th June 2025

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

Pentecost, a time to celebrate the gifts you have given me, a time to say thank you for all I have received, O God...

this world, my life, those around me, I have so much to be grateful for,
but how often do I squander those gifts.

On that first Pentecost you provided the people with the ability to understand one another despite different mother tongues,
forgive me when I struggle to understand those with whom I share more than a common language, forgive me when I fail to communicate with my neighbours, friends and families.

I have built walls, O God, walls of shame, anger, fear, prejudice, walls that serve as barriers to communication, barriers to relationships, barriers that don't bring peace to your world.

Help me to know that I am forgiven, loved and set free.

And help me to have the faith and the courage to remove some of those bricks, letting your light and love shine in, and perhaps alongside that love I can find the courage to let go of those things that divide me from others so that I can better communicate your love with those with whom I share my life.

Amen.

You may now wish to say the Lord's Prayer in a version or translation with which you are familiar

Reading: Acts 2:1-21 – [Click for reading](#)

Responding to the reading

Pentecost is often described as the 'birthday of the Church' – a dramatic, fiery moment when the Holy Spirit fills a room and transforms a small group of frightened followers into bold messengers of God's love. In today's famous reading from Acts 2, we see wind and flame, voices and languages, astonishment and confusion. But beneath all the drama is something gentle, powerful, and enduring: grace – God's free gift, poured out on all people.

In this story, grace is not quiet or private. It rushes in like a violent wind. It rests like fire on every head. It speaks in every tongue, crossing boundaries of nation, race, gender, and class. God's Spirit doesn't wait for people to be ready, righteous, or refined. It comes in the mess of real life, amidst fear and uncertainty, and it changes everything.

Pentecost reminds us that God's grace is never about exclusion. Peter, quoting the prophet Joel, declares that the Spirit is for all flesh: for sons and daughters, young and old, slaves and free. This is a radical vision, especially in a world that still divides and categorises people into 'insiders' and 'outsiders.' Pentecost breaks those walls down.

And yet, Pentecost is not just about receiving grace: it's also about what we do next. The Spirit equips the disciples to speak in ways others can understand. The miracle is not just in the tongues, but in the listening – in the mutual understanding that begins to take root. That is the work of grace: not just to empower, but to connect; not just to speak, but to build community across difference.

So, what does this mean for our discipleship today?

It means we are called to be people of courageous grace. Grace that doesn't stay safe behind closed doors, but spills out into the streets. Grace that isn't content with sameness, but seeks diversity. Grace that speaks boldly, listens deeply, and invites everyone to the table.

On this Pentecost, consider:

- Where is the Spirit calling you to speak up – or listen more deeply?
- What boundaries need breaking in your community or heart?
- How might you be a vessel of grace, not only in church but in every part of your life?

Pentecost isn't a one-time event. It's the ongoing work of the Spirit, alive in us, calling us to be a new kind of community – fuelled by grace, shaped by love, and open to all.

Come, Holy Spirit. Fall afresh on us. And send us out to speak your love in every language of the human heart. Amen.

Responding in music

409 STF – Let us build a house where love can dwell - [YouTube](#)

167 STF – Colours of day dawn into the mind – [YouTube](#)

Responding in prayer

On this Pentecost Sunday, pour out your Spirit once again on your church, that we may bring glory to you, gracious God.

I pray today for all who are perplexed and bewildered, holding before God:

- all who want to have faith or belief, but find it impossible...
- all who, for whatever reason, find it difficult to understand the society around them and struggle to make sense of life...
- all who have had to flee their homeland and have ended up in places where they are misunderstood...

On this Pentecost Sunday, pour out your Spirit of communication and connection, that all may know that you understand them, gracious God.

I pray today for all who are discriminated against, holding before God:

- all whose gender makes them subject to violence, mockery or abuse...

- all who suffer prejudice because of their age or race...
- all whose social status means they are disregarded or oppressed by others...

On this Pentecost Sunday, pour out your Spirit of equality on all who turn to you, that the world may see your generous, unrestricted love for all your people, gracious God.

Gracious God, compassionate Christ, strengthening Spirit – come again to your world on this Pentecost Sunday, come and fill the earth with your goodness. I pray in the name of Jesus,

Amen.

Blessing

The Spirit is already here,
and already out there,
seeking for me to get involved, to find my place.

May this week be one in which I encounter the Spirit closer, more real, more present than ever.

Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers

Monday 9th June

- I pray today for all who live in fear or anxiety, holding before God:
 - all who are victims of war and violence, remembering especially the lands of the Middle East and of Eastern Europe...
 - all who are fearful for their jobs or lives because of extreme regimes...
 - all who struggle with inner fears and crippling anxiety...

Tuesday 10th June

- I pray today for all who are in need of healing in body, mind or spirit, holding before God:
 - all known to us who suffer today, naming them aloud or in our hearts...
 - all in the hospitals and care homes in this locality, and all being cared for at home...
 - all who have no-one to care for them at this time...

Wednesday 11th June

- Sit outside (or open a window) and listen.
 - o What can you hear?
 - o What do you notice?
- Listen for 5 minutes, breathing deeply and steadily as you do so. Allow all that you hear to simply be there.
- As part of God's world, we are deeply connected to creation and to one another. Consider how you are part of the world you hear around you.

Thursday 12th June

- God of peace,
We live through a time of war and conflict.
Today, my prayers reach out to all living surrounded by violence.
Bring your peace, by some miracle, O God, I pray.
Amen.

Friday 13th June

- Breathe in slowly. As you do so, picture that you are breathing in God's love for you, your local community and for the wider world.
- Now breathe out slowly. As you do so, imagine sending that love back out into the world.
- Repeat this at least 5 times.

Saturday 14th June

- As you prepare food today to provide sustenance for your body, reflect on the sustenance God's love for you provides for your heart, mind and soul too. Thank God for this love and channel this into your food preparation. Eat it slowly and steadily, reflecting on this too.