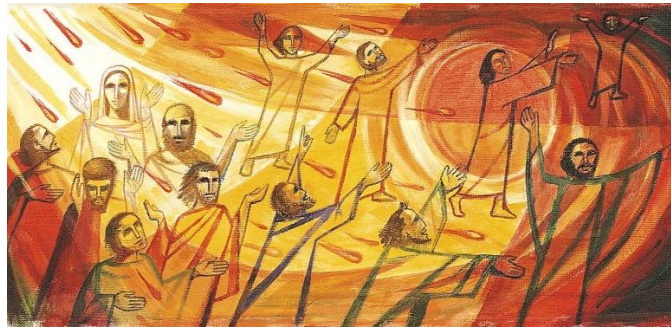




Connection

Sunday 23rd May 2021
Pentecost



Collect

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

Reading: Acts 2: 1-21

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 nation 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? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." 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, "Men of Judea 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.'

Reading: John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15

“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. “I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Post Communion Prayer

Faithful God,
who fulfilled the promises of Easter
by sending us your Holy Spirit
and opening to every race and nation
the way of life eternal:
open our lips by your Spirit,
that every tongue may tell of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Reflection



This week’s reflection is by the Bishop of Dudley, Martin Gorick. You can listen to the podcast at:

<https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/your-faith/prayer-worship/sermon-podcasts>

Come Holy Spirit be our guest, and may this time by you be blessed.

I like that prayer. It’s simple and easy to remember. I like it too because it is a prayer that does something. It says, Come Holy Spirit. It invites God the Holy Spirit to come amongst us with all the Spirit’s power and all the Spirit’s gentleness. Come Holy Spirit be our guest.

We invite God the Holy Spirit to do what guests do: disrupt our lives, share our table, open our minds to new possibilities and touch our hearts. Come Holy Spirit be our guest, and may this time, this prayer service, this meal, this bible study... by you be blessed.

50 Days after Easter is the Feast of Pentecost or Whit Sunday, Spirit Sunday. That was the day the Spirit came upon the first disciples in Jerusalem. They had been told by Jesus to wait, and this was what they had been waiting for.

Its sometimes called the birthday of the church, because that's when this ramshackle group were clothed with power from on high. The Holy Spirit had come and the first sign of this was their speaking in tongues, in languages that spoke direct to the heart of passing people, who were amazed that they understood what was being said.

That's just one of the many gifts the Spirit brings. The gift of true communication, when heart speaks to heart. As people hear that God is real, that God loves them. That Jesus is alive and here with us now, and the promise that everyone who calls upon his name will be saved... can be made one with him.

A simple prayer you may want to use this Pentecost, if you dare!

Come Holy Spirit be my guest, and may my life by you be blessed. Amen.

Requests for Prayers



We pray for all those who are sick everywhere and for those who have asked for our prayers and for their carers: Roy and Margaret Putnam, Edward Bunn, Brian Bolam, Wendy Dufty, Yvonne Seward, Andy Caddell, Pat Farey and Gayle Richards.

We continue to pray for: Percy and Sharon Blizzard, Jackie Pickford, Clive Hunt.

We pray for those who are in residential care: Sheila Bigland-Gibbons, Barbara Milton and Rita Sheppy.

We pray for those who have died everywhere: For those who we know and for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time. For Don Dufty, David Finch and Tim Druce.

Church Service

The church service this week will be a United Group Service at:



10.30am St Mary's, Elmley Castle

May Services

Date	Church	Time	Minister
30 th May	Chapel of Ease, Bredon's Norton	9.00am	Reverend Catherine Lack
	St John the Baptist, Beckford	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies

June Services 2021

Date	Church	Time	Minister
6 th June	St Mary's Elmley Castle	10.30am	Canon Roger Spiller
	Holy Trinity, Eckington	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies
13 th June	St Barbara's, Ashton Under Hill	10.30am	Bishop Martin Gorick
	St Giles, Bredon	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies
20 th June	St Peter's Chapelry, Besford	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies
	St Michael's Great Comberton	10.30am	Archdeacon Robert Jones
27 th June	Chapel of Ease, Bredon's Norton	9.00am	Reverend Catherine Lack
	St Margaret's, Alstone	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies



Dear all

I'd like to recommend two 'stepping up' courses which will be run by Doug Chaplin on behalf of the Diocese of Worcester to help lay members of congregations to 'step up' to help with services.

Monday 24th May 7.30pm on zoom - Leading the Intercessions

Monday 14th June 7.30pm on zoom - Leading Worship

These sessions are free, but you need to book in using the Worcester Diocese website. Do contact me if you have difficulty with this, and I will book in for you!

My e mail address is angie.godsell@btinternet.com

News from the Diocese

Prayers and diocesan news can be found at www.cofe-worcester.org.uk



Reverend Allison Davies

Vicar of Eckington, Defford with Besford and Associate Priest for the churches of the Bredon Hill Group

