



The Festival of Pentecost 31st May 2020

Welcome!

Good morning everyone - today let us praise God, maybe more than ever, for the Holy Spirit who gives us the strength to endure in these present circumstances!

This week there is a message from Tricia - our Licenced Lay Minister about Pentecost - so read on!

This week I can't help thinking of faces - all your faces and how much I miss seeing them! I have seen some of you - and that has been a blessing. The Collect today asks God to 'renew the face of the earth.' Maybe our faces - or our very being, is experiencing renewal by the Holy Spirit of God during this strange time.

As we pray, let us ask the Spirit to inspire us all for renewal - renewal of hearts and minds, renewal of attitudes, renewal of compassion and consideration for all Creation.

And, may we **see** each other's faces soon!
God's blessing be with you as you worship.

Carol x

Light a candle or simply have a quiet moment to prepare....

Greeting

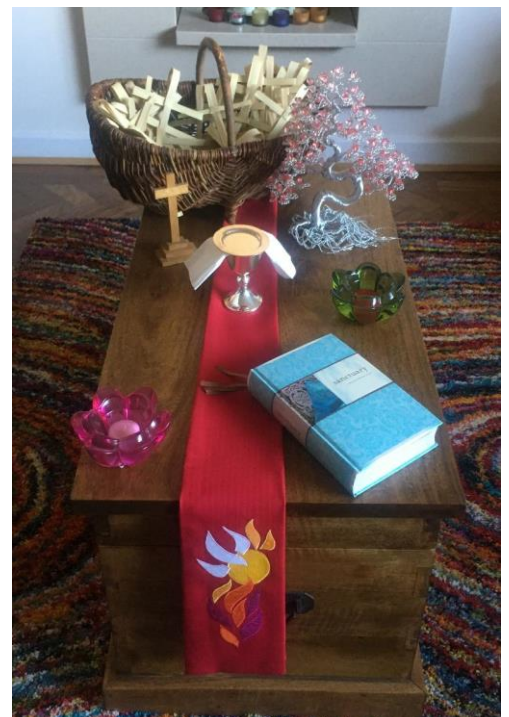
Jesus said 'Receive the Spirit: as the Father sent me, so I send you.'
Alleluia. Thanks be to God.

Praise Response

The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. We dwell in Jesus and he in us through the promised Holy Spirit. Give thanks and call upon the Lord, sing to God, sing praises, and speak of the marvellous works of the Lord. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was and is and is to come.

Hymn: Spirit of the Living God

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



Confession

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins:
We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:
Fill us with your loving Spirit, and have mercy on us.

We confess to you our fear
and failure in sharing our faith:
Fill us with your life-giving Spirit, and have mercy on us.

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:
Fill us with your healing Spirit, and have mercy on us.

Absolution

May the Father forgive you by the death of his Son,
and strengthen you to live
in the power of the Spirit all your days.
Amen.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen

The Collect for Pentecost

Holy Spirit, gift of the Father:
Pour out afresh the fullness of your gifts.
Renew the face of the earth,
and revive your Church with Pentecostal fire.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Bible Readings

Psalm 104:26-35 / Acts 2:1-21 / John 7:37-39



A Message from Tricia Coward – LLM

The Holy Spirit Comes



It's 50 days since Easter Sunday and as we celebrate the Holy Spirit descending on the disciples, I remember years ago when I was involved with Sunday School, we made headbands with large coloured flames of red/orange and yellow and wearing them into Church for all the congregation to see!! When the Holy Spirit came down on to the disciples, they must have been a bit bewildered – probably a bit like the children in Sunday School. Having this Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost as we used to call it, fill the disciples meant they were able to say the same things Jesus preached and talked about! The other amazing thing that happened, when the disciples started to speak to the many people visiting Jerusalem from different countries – each and every person could understand them in their own language. The disciples were filled with confidence and went out to teach the people. God promised that this Holy Spirit would help everyone who asked for it. Many people believed, and came to know about Jesus. Some people say that this was the “birth day” of the early church.

The very same thing is true for us today, we too can choose to learn and share Jesus' message. We too can have the power from the Holy Spirit. God dwells in us so that all who believe in Him can receive the Spirit. Our job is to keep spreading the good news, and to keep loving people.

We may not have flames on our heads or speak in foreign languages, but we can celebrate the Church and how God works through it. We know the Church is not just a building – it is the people in the Church and we are the body of Christ, called to do His work in the world.

We can shine the light of Jesus and love others all around. We can be on fire for Him in our hearts, and show that through our lives. What a blessing and a privilege to be part of something so important – let's share the good news! Amen.

Reflection from Rev Carol

Humans really are unique among the animal kingdom for having such a tremendous diversity in our faces. No other mammal, bird, or reptile that we know of has as much variance in facial features as do humans. We humans have a much lower degree of genetic diversity among us than do many other species. And yet, our faces display a stunning array of diversity. Our brains actually have specific regions specialized for recognizing faces.

Some of the people Jesus appeared to after his resurrection did not recognise him – remember the disciples recognised Jesus as he broke the bread for them. Those earliest Christians were fortunate to see the face of Christ Jesus – the One who would ultimately bring about the fulfilment of the prophecy we heard from Joel, in the passage from Acts – “The Spirit will be poured out on all people.”

How might we be recognized as God's people? Well...the Bible tells us that too – 'By the love you have for one another.' And, the Spirit of God that is in us creates certain characteristics – Love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22)

That light of Christ shines from us when the Holy Spirit is in us – as Tricia said: "We can shine the light of Jesus and love others all around." This will show on our faces! I remember once hearing that a person either has a 'yes' face or a 'no' face. If you are in need of help you will ask someone who has a 'yes' face, as they will look more like someone who will be compassionate and willing to help you out.

By our faces we are recognisable to one another, but it is by our actions that we are recognised as Christians – God's own people, full of the Holy Spirit, out in the world!

May we see each other's faces again soon!

Prayers of Intercession: *Let this song, 'Create in Me' aid your prayer...*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noUeQQ64Q1I>

Share the peace of the Holy Spirit with the world

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy and peace.

If we live in the Spirit, let us walk in peace;

and may our faces display the peace of the Lord to the world and all people.

Look out your window and offer the peace of the Holy Spirit into the world...

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The fire of the Spirit of truth lead you into all truth,

give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,

and strengthen you to proclaim the word

and works of God:

And the blessing of God Almighty;

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be with you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Hymn: The Spirit lives to set us free (*Walk in the Light*)

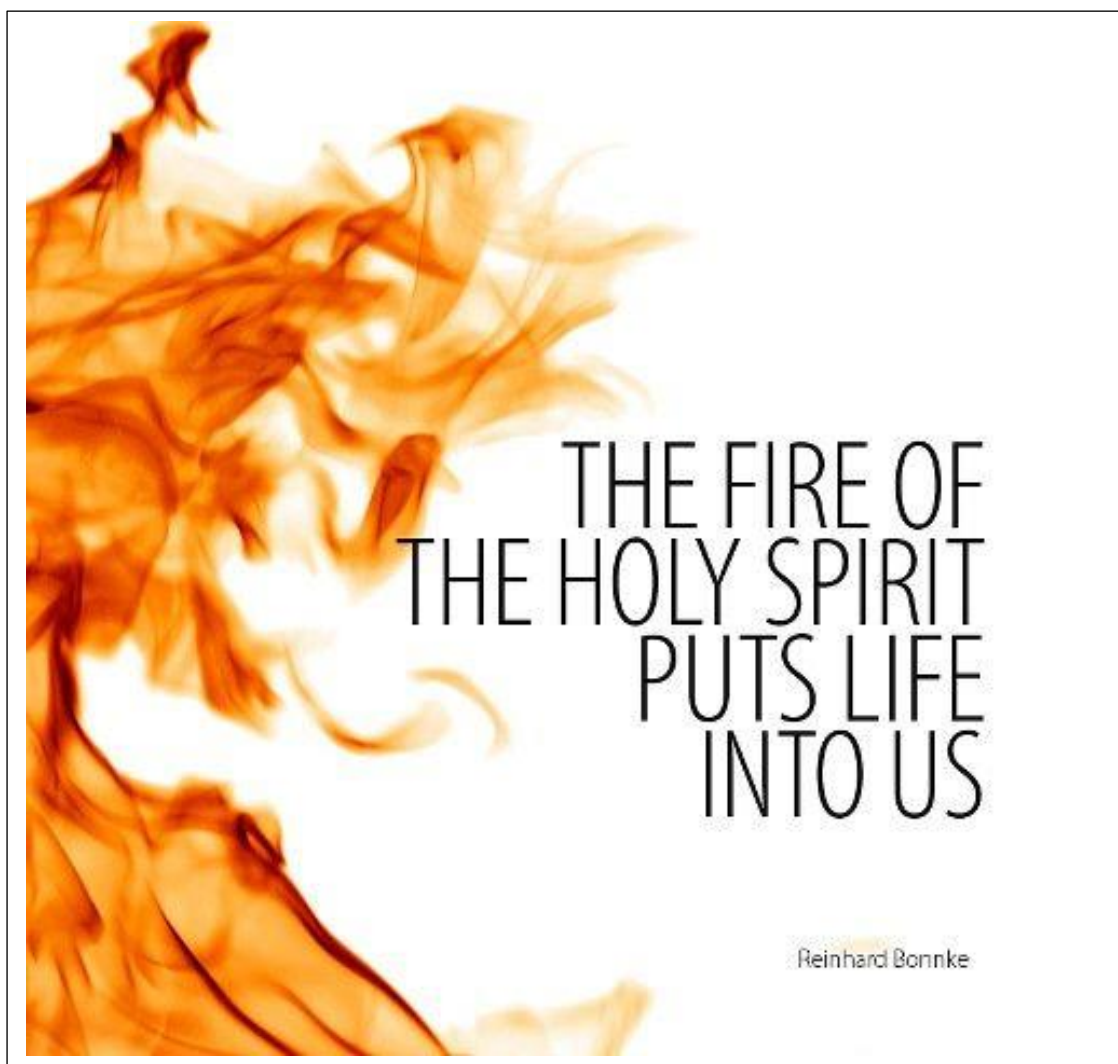
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8T4MzZkeAg>

Dismissal

Go in peace, filled with the Spirit,
to love and serve the Lord.

In the name and power of Christ.

Amen.



Now have a cuppa
and call to mind all the faces
gathered in the hall after church!

www.kestonparishchurch.org.uk