



39B PENTECOST - ONLINE LITURGY

Life after Jesus

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First Reading Acts 2:1–21 or Ezekiel 37:1–14
 Psalm Psalm 104:24–34, 35b
 New Testament Romans 8:22–27 or Acts 2:1–21
 Gospel John 15:26–27, 16:4b–15

Life after Jesus

John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15

Jesus will send the Advocate, the Spirit of truth, to testify on his behalf, and guided by the Spirit the disciples will continue the testimony to the world. The Spirit will glorify Jesus and instruct the disciples about what is still to come.

This week's resources explore: spirit of reassurance; ongoing guidance; advocacy.

	Pre-Service
	<p>Introit Hearts on fire</p>
	<p>Greeting</p> <p>May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ The Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all</p> <p>and also with us</p>
	<p>We Gather Come, sing to the Lord for as long as you live. Come, sing your praises as long as you have being. Come, sing with the dove, and the air you breath the wind and the fire that is the Spirit.</p> <p>Acknowledgements</p> <p><i>Let us pray</i> Breathe, O God, your Holy Spirit into our mortal being; give life and verve and dynamism to our love of you; kindle the flame that we may radiate the love and glory of your being. Amen.</p>

	<p>Prayer of Confession Holy God, we confess that we sometimes struggle to understand you, to understand how 'what is' can be. We confess that we fail to trust as we ought, we lose our way in our confusion, losing sight of your reassuring hand, losing vision for all we should do in your name. Forgive us, and may the breath of your Spirit enliven us to accept your forgiveness, and to testify to your love, your truth and your being To those around us. Amen.</p>
	<p>Words of Assurance God's Spirit knows no bounds! God has no official language. In the Spirit of freedom God grants forgiveness and intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. We are a forgiven people! Let us walk with freedom into the future with God! Thanks be to God.</p>
	<p>Hymn/song We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord Vs 1,2,3</p>
	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Pentecost is a wonderful day in the Christian year. we remember the time when the followers of Jesus experienced God's presence coming to them in the form of wind and fire.</p> <p>Pentecost was also the day that the church was born</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Sunday is the 23th of May so what will the date be 50 days before that. • It was 3rd of April – Easter Day. The day when Jesus rose from the dead. But he knew he would then have to leave them again, and he prepared them for this, promising that the Holy Spirit would come to help them. Pentecost is celebrated on the Sunday 50 days after Easter (the name comes from the Greek pentekoste, "fiftieth"). • It is also called Whitsun, not Whitsunday used in Britain and Ireland, and among Anglicans and Methodists throughout the world

- One of the ways in which the Bible talks about the Holy Spirit is that it is like breath.
Are you breathing?
What happens if you stop, or try to?
Breath is a sign of life.
What are you breathing? Is air 'nothing'?
- ?Show two balloons, one of which is inflated. Ask, what is the difference?
If you had sensitive kitchen scales, you could demonstrate that the inflated balloon weighs more.
Air really is 'something'!
How else can you tell that air really exists? (e.g.) the wind blowing.
- When you feel the wind, or when you think about your breathing, remember that the breath of God
– the wind of God – which is what call the Holy Spirit is always with you.

Pentecost was the day that the church was born,
because on that day God's Spirit filled the disciples
and made them brave enough to share the message of God's love
with others.

Filled with the Holy Spirit
when they told others about Jesus,
many people wanted to be baptised too.

On this day we remind ourselves
that God's Spirit is just as powerful in the world today
as it was in biblical times.

Let us Pray

Drawn by the power of your Holy Spirit, we come to worship.
We come in awe and wonder.
We come with joy and celebration.
We come because you bid us come,
you call us to kneel before you,
you guide us and reassure us that you are our God
and we are your people.
Amen.

Readings

oday in our readings the Holy Spirit
God's Spirit, God as Spirit
has come to the Church.
A Spirit who has given understanding
ever since the day of Pentecost;
a Spirit who empowers prayer
when we do not know what to say;
a Spirit who is an advocate
pleading for us before God the Father.

With apologies to those who love order

We are going to read the readings in reverse order today
 Since the John reading predicts what will happen
 And the acts reading tells us what does happen
 And reading them the other way round doesn't make sense to me.

A Paraphrase of John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15

God's Spirit fills the world. How couldn't it?
 This is God's creation of course,
 God's Spirit lives and moves in it!
 But just as the air around you can be gentle as a baby's breath
 or as fierce as a hurricane,
 so the Spirit can appear in many ways.

Jesus said:
 'Soon the Spirit will speak out
 and show the world that I am God's Son,
 and you must join in with this work.
 You have been with me from the beginning
 you must speak out and tell the world what you know.
 Things are going to get tough.
 The people who wanted to shut me up haven't gone away.
 You will have to face them too.
 You need to be ready for that,
 because I won't be with you as I am now.

Oh, don't look at me like that
 no long faces.
 I'm not abandoning you.
 But things are changing
 I have to give up just being in one place at a time.
 I need to be everywhere.
 I need to live in the world as God lives in the world.
 But we're really not abandoning you.
 We are sending our Spirit to guide you,
 to help you recognise what's true,
 to help you make sense of all that is going to happen.
 To help you understand
 all the things we've been through together.

And when you look back
 and think about the stories I've told,
 and the things I've done,
 the Spirit will help you see what they were all about.

Through the eyes of the Spirit
 you'll see that I shine with all the glory of God.
 The Spirit will be the life that holds us all together.
 The love in God the Father
 is the love in me,
 and will be the love in all of you.

<p>When our Spirit comes to you, you will know this from the roots of your hair to the tips of your toes. You will know it the way you know your heart beats. The Spirit will connect us, bringing God's truth and love from me to you.</p> <p>Acts 2:1–21 The Coming of the Holy Spirit, then Peter Addresses the Crowd</p> <p><i>respond</i> For the word of the Lord Thanks be to God</p>
<p>Hymn/Song TiS 411 – “Filled with the Spirit's Power”</p>

Response

What Image of the Holy Spirit is helpful for you?

There is a story about a new preacher
who preached a very fine sermon on his first Sunday in the church.
Everyone loved it.

The next Sunday he preached the very same sermon.
The people were a bit miffed
but since it was an ok sermon no one spoke to him of the double up.
The next week he preached the sermon again.

After the service the Chairpersons of the church council and Worship committee came to him
and asked him why he was preaching the same sermon over and over again.

The pastor said,
"I just though it best to stay with the same message for a while
till people have heard that
before moving on to something new!"

There is a part of me that thinks
There are a lot of preachers this Sunday
Banging out the same sermon
And no one seems to listen or understand.

Why does Pentecost and speaking of the Holy spirit cause us so much disquiet?
Why aren't people listening

Let's look at the story.
The disciples have been on an emotional rollercoaster:
Jesus' death,
his resurrection,
the sudden appearances and disappearances.
They are confused, grief stricken

So what does Christ do.

In the reading from John,

Christ prepares his disciples for the long-term separation.

He offers reassurance.

'Fear not' is Christ's constant refrain throughout the Gospel reading,

and he will send the Spirit to maintain that message.

Surely we need to do the same.

How do we offer reassurance to our communities?

Mainly by being there. Less church less spirit.

In years gone by a church like this would have been full.

Then filled with the Holy Spirit

the congregation would have been turned out on the town.

Today we need to do the same but there are less of us.

We need to work harder

We need to make sure we are relevant, so people listen

We need to shine more brightly.

Is our church seen as a lighthouse beacon of reassurance?

Well who watched the Royal Wedding?

In a Cathedral Would that have an effect?

Certainly a lot of people saw the inside of a church that wouldn't normally.

What about other events, like baptisms, weddings and funeral.

Statements on Social Justice issues

The people of God seeing the Spirit of Christ active in their community

Through you and me

Recognising the flame of the Spirit in our being.

The next question is

Is being supportive and reassuring a Christian imperative?

Is faith, for us, not to mention everyone else a spiritual rollercoaster ride?

Is the arc of this story – loss/recovery/loss/support

helpful in describing us and those we meet in our faith? *Discuss*

The giving of the Spirit is not unique to Pentecost,

e.g. Bezalel is given the Spirit to inspire craftsmanship (Exodus 31.2-5);

Saul for kingship (1 Samuel 10.6);

John the Baptist from birth (Luke 1.15).

Do we think of the Spirit as an ongoing force informing the whole of our lives?

According to the end of John's Gospel,

the disciples are given the Spirit before Pentecost (20.22)

so is Pentecost every year

a reboot or affirmation of what they already have?

Is it the ongoing Spirit 'turning up the volume'?

Pentecost kick-starts the spread of the gospel. Do we need regular kick-starts?

Does Pentecost do it for you? If not, how can we change that?

Peter is known as the most inept of apostles.

The bible derides him at every opportunity.
 He cant walk on water,
 He has no education , he is a fisherman
 And he Denied his friend and mentor if not his Messiah 3 times.
 But with the Holy Spirit within him
 His words alone make 3000 people from all over the known world
 Convert to Christianity and want to be baptised.
 What will we do with power like that.
 Go home! Watch a rerun of the Royal wedding?
 Maybe not.
 If the spirit is within you – we need to let it shine.
 Amen

	<p>Hymn/song TIS #699 – “A New Commandment I give unto you”</p>
	<p>Offering</p>
	<p>Notices</p>
	<p>Prayers for all people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imagine a burning fire and visualise the different colours in the flames. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Look at the moving, dancing and ever-changing shapes of the flames. ○ Think of their interaction and their effect. ○ Can you see them? Hear them? Smell them? Don't touch them, but can you feel the warmth? • Now, imagine the power of the Holy Spirit burning within you in the same way. <p>Lord, We aren't who we want to be... well not always, maybe not often. But you take us as we are.</p> <p>Fill us with the urge to love more, to care more, to know more, to share more - in your name. Kindle within us the love we have of you, that it may warm the hearts of those we know and love, that we may pass the flame and share the gentle breeze, and offer the peace of the reassuring dove.</p>

	<p>We are not who we want to be...but you can transform us. Make us who you want us to be.</p> <p><i>Response after each bidding.</i></p> <p>Breath of God: Breath on them now.</p> <p>For those around us, Lord, we pray. For the lost and the lonely... For the ill and the dying... For the bewildered and confused... For the tortured and trafficked... For the abused and neglected... For the grieving and broken... For ... add your own biddings.</p> <p>Amen.</p>
	<p>Lord's Prayer</p> <p>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. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. AMEN.</p>
	<p>Hymn/song Spirit of the living God</p>
	<p>We are sent out</p> <p>Almighty God, you have given us such wonderful gifts; you have inspired us and moved us, challenged and changed us; you have loved and supported and cared and upheld us.</p> <p>Send us out like living flames and comforting winds to move among our family, friends and neighbours. Send us out with the gift of your Holy Spirit and the truth of the risen and ascended Jesus.</p> <p>Amen.</p> <p>May the Lord bless us and keep us May His face shine upon us and be gracious to us</p>

	May he lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace
	Benediction
	Thank you

