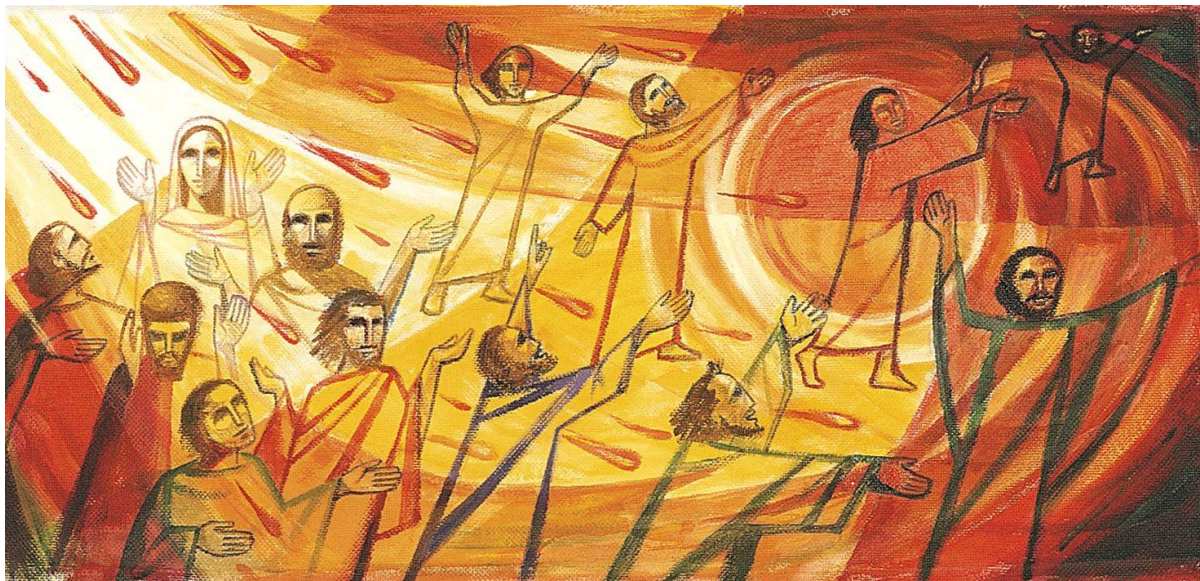


Celtic Worship for the Feast of Pentecost

Sunday 31st May 2020



Welcome to this service on the day in which the Church universal celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit and its birth.

This is a very simple service with liturgy and prayers adapted from the Celtic tradition. Inner reflection is a big emphasis so this service will be punctuated by periods of extended silence.

A candle is lit.

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

Most powerful Holy Spirit,
come down
upon us
and subdue us.

From heaven,
where the ordinary
is made glorious,
and glory seems
but ordinary.

Bathe us
with the brilliance
of Your light
like dew.

Reflection music – Come Down O Love Divine

Opening responses

Into your presence we come.
Into fellowship with Father, Son and Holy Spirit; Glorious Trinity.
You breathed this world into being.
Your creative Spirit is still visible within our everyday lives;
through the changing seasons, the colours and sounds of nature,
the rhythm of day and night, sunrise and sunset,
tide and wind, rain and shine.

All: Breathe upon our fellowship, Creating Spirit, Creator God.

Your Spirit,
present in the birth pangs of this world empowered the Prophets
of old, ordinary people called to live extraordinary lives.

All: Breathe upon our fellowship, Creating Spirit, Creator God.

Your Spirit was so visible through the life of your Son,
from the moment of conception to his death and glorious resurrection.

All: Breathe upon our fellowship, Creating Spirit, Creator God.

Your Spirit was the parting gift of Jesus to the world.
'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you,
and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth'

All: Breathe upon our fellowship, Creating Spirit, Creator God.

Period of silence.

Time of Confession

Father, you have gifted us with the power to perform miracles,
to be your witnesses here and to the ends of the earth.
Yet we stand so often with feelings of inadequacy,
fearful of our own failings and sin.
Forgive us when we try and limit your power
and underestimate our own capabilities.
Forgive us when we fail to open our hearts fully
to the working of your Spirit,
when we choose to limit your work in our lives.
Empower us as you did the Prophets of old; embolden us in our witness
to our family, our neighbours and all whom we meet.

Period of silence.

God, your spirit fell like tongues of fire.

**All: It filled those that were empty,
It empowered those that were weary.**

God, your spirit fell like tongues of fire.

**All: It brought together those that were divided,
It reassured those who were afraid.**

God, your spirit fell like tongues of fire.

**All: By its power we can walk together as one,
By its power we can find strength to share.**

God, your spirit fell like tongues of fire.

**All: By its power we can find freedom in loving each other,
By its power we can find life in you.**

Bible reading – 1 Corinthians 12.1-11

“What I want to talk about now is the various ways God’s Spirit gets worked into our lives. This is complex and often misunderstood, but I want you to be informed and knowledgeable. Remember how you were when you didn’t know God, led from one phony god to another, never knowing what you were doing, just doing it because everybody else did it? It’s different in this life. God wants us to use our intelligence, to seek to understand as well as we can. For instance, by using your heads, you know perfectly well that the Spirit of God would never prompt anyone to say “Jesus be damned!” Nor would anyone be inclined to say “Jesus is Master!” without the insight of the Holy Spirit.

God’s various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God’s Spirit. God’s various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God’s Spirit. God’s various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful:

- wise counsel
- clear understanding
- simple trust
- healing the sick
- miraculous acts
- proclamation

distinguishing between spirits
tongues
interpretation of tongues.

All these gifts have a common origin but are handed out one by one by the one Spirit of God. He decides who gets what, and when.”

Show me your ways, O Lord

All: Teach me your paths.

Guide me in your truth and teach me

All: for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.

Period of silence – reflect on the reading.

What is the reading saying to you?

What word/phrase sticks out in your mind?

What do you need to do in order to respond faithfully?

Poem – Come by here Holy Spirit (Mark Berry)

Waiting, Waited,

Flame Breather, Life Teaser,
Sweet Essence, Hard Presence,
Pulsing Blood, Sweeping Flood
Storm Force, Water Source,
Deepest Kiss, Draining Bliss,
Motivator, Love Creator,
Hearts Gripped, Conventions Ripped,
Fire Poured, Winds Roar,

Whisper, Whisper,

Blown Upon, Blown Away,
Burning Up, Burning Out,

Baraka, Ruach, Shanti, Shalom,
Life Spirit, Holy Spirit, Spirit.

Period of silence.

Prayers of concern

Great God, you wrap us round with love,
like a mighty, gentle mother,
and you carry us like a strong and tender father,
setting us on our feet
to be your free, mature and joyful daughters and sons.

Now, in our weakness, we pray to you
because we cannot come through life's troubles unscathed;
and, with souls and bodies stressed and strained,
we cannot meet each other's needs without your Holy Spirit.

**All: Holy Spirit, come with healing power;
Spirit, gift of Christ, fill us with us God's love.**

Great God, we come to you with the resurrected Christ,
who bore the weight of human flesh and blood to Calvary,
for your love's sake;
and even now, as conqueror of death,
he pleads with you for all your suffering children.

**All: Holy Spirit, come with healing power;
Spirit, gift of Christ, fill us with us God's love.**

We join our prayers to the prayers of Christ
for those we know who are ill or troubled,
and for all your suffering children who are beyond our reach of mind:
we know that all are brought home to your heart in the prayers of Christ
and in the silent intercessions of your Spirit,
who comes from your deep heart to ours,
and returns again to you with all our deepest longings.

**All: Holy Spirit, come with healing power;
Spirit, gift of Christ, fill us with us God's love.**

Heal us and help us, comfort and strengthen us, deepen our joy.
Let our love reflect your might tenderness
and serve you healing gentleness.

**All: Holy Spirit, come with healing power;
Spirit, gift of Christ, fill us with us God's love.**

Eternal God, there is great longing in the world;
people are desperate because of the suffering they endure.
Earth cries out for peace; oppressed people cry for justice;
women, men and children weep in sorrow and pain.
How can we have any hope for the world,
unless you are with us?
Through all the mystery of pain, sorrow and human vulnerability,
we dare to believe that you are on our side,
that your love for us is greater than ours for you or for each other.

Call us, then, to prophesy!
By the lives we live, by our patience, by our compassion,
by our belief in the future you will make for us,
let your Church proclaim the great things you are doing,
with hope for the nations of the world,
for every person born, and every living creature.

**All: Holy Spirit, come with healing power;
Spirit, gift of Christ, fill us with us God's love.**

So, Living God, let praise begin, here and now with us,
welling up from our hearts,
rising towards the skies,
until praise fills the universe and joy is unconfined:
as you delight in us and we delight in you, for evermore.

The Lord's Prayer

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

**Reflection music – Come Holy Spirit Fall on Me
(featuring Lyn Davids, Esther King Smith, Sara Raybould,
Miranda Seldon & Claire Wallis)**

Closing Responses

Holy Spirit, without your power in the Church today we shall always be weak and ineffective in our mission.

How can the world see you through our lives if they cannot see the power of your love shining through?

How can the world feel your healing touch if we do not know the reality of your presence in our lives?

How can we show a world that is searching where to find spiritual fulfilment if our lives have not first been made whole?

Holy Spirit, your creative breath is the power in your Church today. Therefore, may we know that power in this place and in our lives.

Period of silence

Fill us with your Spirit

All: That our faith might be enriched.

Fill us with your Spirit

All: That our lives might be empowered.

Fill us with your Spirit

All: That our witness might be emboldened.

Fill us with your Spirit

All: That your name might be glorified.

Glorious God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

We enter into this evening knowing your Spirit dwells within us.

May your Counsellor make us wise

and help us understand what it means to know you.

May the Spirit's fire ignite our hearts

so that we understand the hope of being chosen by God.

May we discover the glorious blessings we share together with all God's people.

**All God we go into this evening
knowing it is you who makes us stand firm in Christ.
We are filled with your Spirit,
We are anointed to serve,
We go out to bring resurrection life.**

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, this day and forever.

All Amen.