

Welcome to Zoom Church on 31st May 2020 and our Pentecost Party

Before we begin...

An Agapé meal is a way of breaking bread together as Jesus did with people in all sorts of settings. You may like to join in at home with some bread and wine or juice.

If you are joining us with children, you might like to have some paper and pens ready for a prayer time activity.

A practical note: during longer prayers, hymns, the talk and the intercessions, we will put everyone on 'mute' except the person leading so that we do not hear any background noise. If you want to put yourself back on mute, please do so!

Notices for Sunday 31st May

Don't forget you can join:

A service of said Evening Prayer (BCP) this evening at 6.30pm.

The final session of the Bible Course on Monday 1st June at 3pm

Morning Prayer at 8.30am every weekday

ask for the Zoom links if you don't have them.

If you are able to volunteer to help shop for people, make phone calls or offer other practical help to those in need, please let us know.

This week is Pentecost, the Church's birthday! We are celebrating our churches and local communities with a birthday party! And we think particularly of all those people of God who are not with us this morning through isolation, illness or because they have already made that journey to be with the Lord.

We begin with a Prayer of Gathering

Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

And also with you

Be with us, Spirit of God;
nothing can separate us from your Love.

Breathe on us, breath of God;
fill us with your saving power.

Speak in us, wisdom of God;
bring strength, healing and peace.

Silence is kept

The Lord is here
His Spirit is with us.

Hymn

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love,
And do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with the fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with thee the perfect life
Of thine eternity.

Edwin Hatch 1835-89

The Confession

In a dark and disfigured world
we have not held out the light of life:
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

In a hungry and despairing world
we have failed to share our bread:
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

In a cold and loveless world
we have kept the love of God to ourselves:
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

**May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive us our sins
and make us holy
to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Collect

God, who as at this time
taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

We watch a video from Hereford Diocese: Pentecost Prayers

A reading from Acts 2:1-21

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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.’”

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

We listen to a talk by The Reverend Ruth Hulse:
Stay in Jerusalem. Await the Holy Spirit. Save Lives.

Hymn

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire;
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart:

Thy blessèd unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love;
Enable with perpetual light
The dullness of our blinded sight:

Anoint and cheer our soilèd face
With the abundance of thy grace:
Keep far from foes, give peace at home;
Where thou art guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And thee, of Both, to be but One;
That through the ages all along,
This may be our endless song,

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Words: Latin, ninth century; trans. John Cosin, 1627
Music: Veni Creator*

The Intercessions

The intercessions may end by saying together:
Merciful Father,
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

We listen to 'If ye love me' (Tallis)

The Peace

Jesus said

'Peace I leave you; my peace I give you.

I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid'.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

Hymn

During this next hymn, you might like to make sure you have your bread and wine close by.

This is the day,

This is the day

That the Lord has made,

That the Lord has made;

We will rejoice,

We will rejoice

And be glad in it,

And be glad in it.

This is the day that the Lord has made:

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day,

This is the day

That the Lord has made.

This is the day,
This is the day
When he rose again,
When he rose again;
We will rejoice,
We will rejoice
And be glad in it,
And be glad in it.
This is the day when he rose again:
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day.
This is the day
When he rose again.

This is the day,
This is the day
When the Spirit came,
When the Spirit came;
We will rejoice,
We will rejoice
And be glad in it,
And be glad in it.
This is the day when the Spirit came:
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
This is the day
When the Spirit came.

We share together in an Agape meal.
beginning by giving thanks.

*If you want to hold up your bread and wine as we pray,
please do so.*

We have bread and wine,
gifts of this good earth,
enough for all, if we can share!
Gracious God we give you thanks
for all the many blessings in our lives
and ask that you would bless us now
as we share your good gifts
in Jesus' name.

Amen

Breaking Bread

Loving God, you provide enough for everyone:
this earth is fertile, fruitful and abundant,
but we are sometimes greedy, wasteful and selfish.

Many go hungry despite our plenty,
many are left outside while we enjoy a feast.

But on the hillside, in the wilderness,
with five thousand and more hungry people,
Jesus took the bread that they had,
broke it and gave thanks to you.

He shared the bread,
so that no one should be left out,
and they all ate and were satisfied.

Blessed be God for ever!

Blessing Wine

Gracious God, you hurt with our pains,
you weep with our tears;
when you see how we struggle and suffer.

You long for our peace, yet we so often make war.
You long for our healing and wholeness,
yet we so often turn away from you.

But at a wedding in Cana when the wine ran out,
Jesus asked them to fill the empty jars with water,
and by your grace, water became wine,
sadness was turned to joy,
and all were able to share in the best wine of all.
Blessed be God for ever!

Sharing Together

Healing God,
you long for us to dream your dream,
of a world at peace, a people made one,
a feast for all;
where bread is broken and shared with companions on the road,
where wine is blessed
and shared with all who are hurting,
and all are caught up together
in the Kingdom of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The bread is shared, using the words:
Bread for the world to share.

The wine is shared using the words:
The best wine, saved till now.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God we thank you,
for your abundant love in creation,
your compassionate, healing touch in our hurting,
your inspiration for our venturing.
Thank you for bread, and wine to share.
Give us grace to follow
in the footsteps of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**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**

Hymn

Come down, O Love divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till he become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

*Bianco da Siena d1434 translated R F Littledale 1833-90
Tune 'Down Ampney' Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958*

We finish with a blessing from the West Hereford Team

In peace we love and serve the Lord in our daily lives
In the name of Christ.
Amen.