



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

DAY OF PENTECOST

24 MAY 2015

Sentence

'A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put in you,' says the Lord God; 'I will put my spirit within you and you shall live.'

Ezekiel. 36.26; 37.14

Collect for the day

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love, joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the book of the Acts of the Apostles

Jewish tradition held that the Law was given to Moses on this day of Pentecost, seven weeks after Passover. The story is full of allusions: John had promised a baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire; the comprehension of all languages undoes the effect of the (mythic) tower of Babel story in Genesis 11.1-9.

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.'

Acts 2.1-21

Reader: Hear the word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God

Psalm 104 vs 26-36 at 8am APBA page 331 at 10am TiS 65

This whole psalm is a hymn to the Creator and prays for the restoration of the original, intended harmony of what God makes. Then, even the sea monster Leviathan, becomes a harmless sportive creature of God.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

The gift of Holy Spirit is a gift for the whole creation, and not just the Church and its members. The Spirit works towards God's purposes which are much greater than these present circumstances would indicate.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour

pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. *Romans 8.22—*

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Reader May your word live in us

ALL **And bear much fruit to your glory**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ALL **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love.

ALL Alleluia, alleluia!

Reader The Lord be with you.

ALL And also with you.

Reader A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus assures his disciples that the Spirit will be given to those who abide in the same love of Jesus for God and who love one another among the friends of Jesus. The Spirit will teach and lead, purify and refine, and form us in the likeness of Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, '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?" 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 judgement: 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 judgement, 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.

John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15

Reader: For the Gospel of the Lord

ALL: **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK. *For Reconciliation from APBA, p203.* Lord God, bring us together as one, reconciled with you and reconciled with each other, You made us in your likeness, you gave us your Son, Jesus Christ. He has given us forgiveness from sin. Lord God, bring us together as one, different in culture but given new life in Jesus Christ, together as your body, your Church, your people. Lord God, bring us together as one, reconciled, healed, forgiven, sharing you with others as you have called us to do. In Christ Jesus, let us be together as one. Amen.

BIBLE READINGS NEXT SUNDAY. Trinity Sunday 31 May 2015

Isaiah 6.1-8 Psalm29 Romans 8.12-17 John 3.1-17

Pray for the Faithful Departed : We remember before God Janet Lloyd, Percival Philp (Peter) Jackson, Elwood (Ted) Chandler, Betty Cuming, Margaret Courtney, Jean Frances Crameri, Harry Furlonger, William Mallinson, Jean (Jane) Gilchrist Garden *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

COMMEMORATIONS OF THE WEEK.

Prayers for the ordained ministry of the Church are appropriate in this Ember week.

May 27 to June 3 – Week of Prayer for Reconciliation.

May 24 John Wesley (1703-1791) Anglican priest and founder of the Methodist movement; and **Charles** Wesley (1707-1788), brother of John also an evangelist, best known as a most gifted and prolific hymn writer. **May 25** Bede of Jarrow, England (c.673-735), scholar, teacher and historian. His writing, *A History of the English Church and People*, is a primary source of early English history. **May 26** Augustine of Canterbury (d.605), missionary to Kent and the first archbishop of Canterbury. Landed in Kent 597 and soon Ethelbert, King of Kent, and his people became Christians. He tried to come to an agreement with the original Celtic Church in Britain, which dated back to the 2nd or 3rd century, but failed (agreement was not reached till 664).