

Bulletin for Sunday

31st May 2020

Dear Friends

A very Good Morning to you all! If you created a prayer station in the last day or two with objects reminding you of the wind and fire of God's Spirit, you might like to have them where you can see them as you worship; and whether you did or not, you might like to light a candle this morning.

Our first hymn is a challenge - because it's not in our hymn book (for some obscure reason). I am hoping that most of you will either know it by heart, or have access to the many versions on YouTube to guide you.

Hymn: All things bright and beautiful (not in Rejoice and Sing)

Prayer: God Almighty, you have indeed made all things well.
For the beauty which surrounds us;
for your unconditional love which gently upholds us;
and for the wind and fire of your Spirit which keep us moving,
learning, changing and growing.....
we praise and thank you.
As we worship this morning, may we feel your presence with us
and be aware of our connections to each other, through you. Amen

followed by The Lord's Prayer

Readings: Acts 2: 1-21 and 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13

Reflection: Pentecost is a huge event in Christian history - and yet it's far less known and honoured than Christmas and Easter.

The Spirit is woven through thousands of years of Biblical history. In the Hebrew scriptures (Old Testament) it tended to be poured out on 'celebrities' - prophets, priests and kings. Not so at Pentecost, when the Spirit, sent as promised by the risen and ascended Jesus, was apparently poured out on a whole lot of people - a varied group of men and women, young and old, by no means all of them celebrity material. The diversity of gifts described by Paul in his letter to the young church in Corinth echoes the positive diversity within the infant church.

We sometimes call this the 'church's birthday'. It was certainly the beginning, or birth, of something new. The life and energy of the Spirit, epitomised by fire and rushing wind, melded this diverse group into one body, and equipped and literally encouraged it for the mission of spreading the word about God's kingdom.

New birth always brings wonder at new life; and curiosity - how will this new life turn out? The church in our generation is constantly being made new, constantly equipped and gifted by the Spirit, as it has been in every generation before us. How will it turn out? We can't know, but the Spirit is alive and working.....

Hymn: Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost (R&S 310)

Prayer: God of love
send your Holy Spirit to our world of pain:
where there is abuse, bring justice;
where there is despair, bring hope;
and where there is loneliness, bring comfort...
God of love
send your Holy Spirit on us
to enable us in prayer and in service,
and to show us the road to follow.
Make us aware of the diversity of those you call
and of the abundance of the gifts you bestow;
and nurture our commitment to unity in you. Amen

Hymn: There's a spirit in the air (R&S 329)

May we be challenged by the power of the Spirit
and may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us and with all those we love
this week and every week. Amen

A URC minister and a friend of mine, wrote a wonderful new hymn for Pentecost this year. I think it needs to wait until we can all sing together in worship, with a good musician to help (and I believe we will get back to that somehow, eventually) so for now I will just share with you, for encouragement, her first line:

Come Pentecost People: behold, God is here!

Amen to that. Please let me know of any news or prayer requests.
Every blessing for the week ahead.

Anne Lewitt